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1915

CITY OF HILLSDALE, MICH.

L.P. REYNOLDS

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BURTON HISTORICAL
COLLECTION



A STREET SCENE—"A Sample of Many More"

The City of Hillsdale

Michigan

May

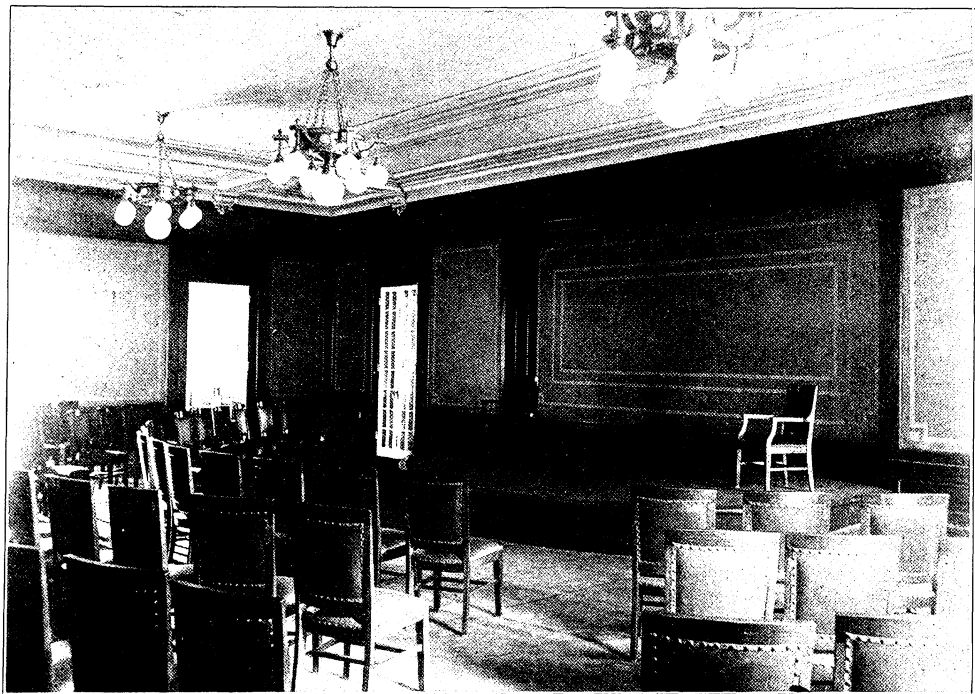
1915



SHOW DAY STREET SCENE



THE WHITE HOUSE—Residence of President Mauck



HILLSDALE COLLEGE—A LITERARY SOCIETY HALL

The City of Hillsdale Michigan

By L. P. Reynolds

Introductory

In taking up this work we do not intend to write a history of Hillsdale, our purpose only being to describe the city as it now is. Hillsdale City was incorporated March 4th, 1869. Ten years ago we issued 15,000 copies of a plain little 12-page booklet and distributed same to 50,000 readers. Realizing what this accomplished, we are moved to do something bigger and better by issuing 25,000 copies of a larger, classified and illustrated booklet to reach 100,000 readers. The time is now ripe for a general forward movement. In setting forth the features and qualities of our city we intend to be truthful and honest. While we believe that Hillsdale has more good things and fewer poor things than any place of our size, we have no desire to exaggerate nor in any way to misrepresent things. Our case is good enough to tell things as they are. While our motive is to build up our city, we seek the good of others as well as of ourselves. And having laid the foundation at great cost we now desire to so build thereon that, together with our natural advantages, we may have one of the finest little cities in the world. We invite the most careful consideration of all we say and a critical examination of the illustrations we use. To this end, as related to our location, we speak briefly first of our own state.

Michigan

Centrally located in North America, the grandest continent on the planet, is the wonderful State of Michigan. In its sisterhood of 48 States which constitutes the grandest government on the globe, Michigan ranks high up in every essential quality. For its great mineral wealth, for its agricultural and horticultural productions, and for its educational advantages—"My Michigan" is not surpassed by any equal area in the world. More and more its high character is coming to be understood. As corroborative of this see what the Detroit Tribune quotes from one of the foremost daily newspapers of the South. It says: "Although Michigan is one of the ten leading wheat states, the second fruit state, a great bean and potato state, and is noted for its output of furniture and automobiles, none of these activities is more profitable than the summer resort business. The state has been called an asylum for the suffering and a paradise for sportsmen. People flock to Michigan from all parts of the country to enjoy its cooling breezes in summer. The air is bracing, the proximity of the great lakes is invigorating, and in many ways the visitor is made to forget the troubles of his life back home." Concerning two particulars in the foregoing we can say that Michigan is the home of the greatest furniture factories and the greatest automobile plants in the world. And in support of the other statement concerning the resort business the Michigan Geography says: "Millions of dollars—\$5,000,000, it is estimated—are left in the state annually by pleasure seekers." But it is not our purpose to write up the State of Michigan, only to show the frame in which our picture of the City of Hillsdale is set.

Location and Altitude

Hillsdale County is centrally located in the southern tier of counties in Michigan, and the City of Hillsdale is centrally located in the county exactly at the summit of the Southern Michigan divide. It is the County Seat and its surroundings include Bawbeese Lake and a fertile rolling wooded country. We are within a mile of Bawbeese Lake, whose waters flow both east and west to the great lakes. Thus we are at the pinnacle of the state, and because of the undulation of the lands all about us and within the city itself, together with the underlying strata of shale rock and gravel, we have unsurpassed natural drainage. Then, lying on

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both sides of the St. Joseph River, whose source is Bawbeese Lake itself, we get both natural and artificial drainage through it and our many miles of sewerage, so that with the bountiful Bawbeese Lake a mile up the stream to draw upon, and our chief cemetery a mile down the stream as it ought to be, it will be seen that the most perfect sanitary condition is forever guaranteed. These facts bespeak the certainty of good health, and an exceptionally low death rate. Our altitude and our drainage account for the fact that we are so free from malarial diseases.

Our Latitude

Hillsdale is in the northern hemisphere, nearly midway between the equator and the pole, and this is just the latitude for most bodily vigor and strongest mentality. The golden mean which we occupy is just the place for education and formation of character. It is true that at times the winter's cold seems uncomfortable and even severe, but it is also true that the very struggle required to endure the winter blasts is essential for the vigor needful to combat the great problems of life. The matter of climate is so vital to highest attainment that we dwell upon it. Sameness of temperature cannot produce the strongest vigor. Variety, within just the right limitations, constitutes the truest condition for both physical and mental growth. It is the prudent activities that sustain the life. The great movements for the progress of the world have never come from the torrid or frigid realms. These things only exist and flourish in the temperate realm and reach the highest point along the midway line. This is no idle tale, for experience has proven that the bud and blossom of spring, the beauty and growth of summer, the ripening and glory of autumn, and the rest and tonic of winter, combine to give to man his greatest strength. Yes, it requires the round of the seasons for highest development. We have a case illustrative of this in a bright young man who moved from here to "the land of perpetual roses" in Southern California, who after four years realized the loss of his vigor to such extent that he cried out, "O, God, give me a country with four seasons in it." So the fact is established that in our latitude we are located just right. Cincinnati is too far south and Mackinaw is too far north, but being on the safe side of 45 degrees from the equator, Hillsdale is in exactly the right place. Verily, it would have been better for the Capital of the United States to have been located in this same line somewhere midway between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

No Cyclones or Tornados

Besides the value of our latitude and altitude there is another vital reason in favor of our location. If we may judge of the future by the past we are in no danger of cyclones or tornados. It runneth not in the memory of man that this city has ever suffered from a destructive wind-storm. And we have additional assurance from the fact that the United States government has for a hundred years kept an accurate record of all storms in the nature of cyclones and tornados, and such record shows that such storms have struck down east of us, west of us, and northerly in all directions, while not one in or near our city has been noted. In some way they break and scatter and go around Hillsdale. It is true that we have high winds and heavy down-pours of rain, and suffer a measure of fear, but knowing the past we bide our time and no harm comes to us.

Safety From Inundation

Because of our natural undulating surface with the drift all toward the river-valley we have no fear of inundation. In case of a water-fall even to the magnitude of a cloud-burst it would be carried away without harm or loss. It would only wash the city's face clean and be gone. No water in Hillsdale cellars. Compare this with the flat towns always in danger of overflow with the impossibility of surface or sewer drainage, and judge which is the better place for a home. Take a single illustration. One day during the past season there came a terrible general storm over the state. The down-pour in Hillsdale was one of the heaviest ever known. The streets were flooded and flowing away to some lower level. For a time darkness mantled the city and business was at a standstill. In an hour following the storm the automobiles and carriages were driving everywhere with scarcely wetting a wheel. But how different elsewhere. The following day came the news of devastation and ruin until the loss could only be measured by millions upon millions of dollars. Cities and towns all over Michigan had been overflowed, buildings had been blown down, orchards had been uprooted, stock had been killed, and human life had been taken, but no harm had come to Hillsdale. As related to all these things remember that a foreboding of danger, a constant fear of disaster, is depressing, and that the effect is to shorten life, but that a constant sense of safety is comforting and assures length of days. It is wise to choose a healthy locality and a place of safety.

No Danger of Conflagration

Another good thing is that we have no fear of sweeping conflagration. In all the past, cities large and small, everywhere, have been wiped off the face of the earth by fire. But our city in all its business part is so well built with brick and stone structures, and with such frequent fire walls, that with our ability, upon short notice, to turn on half a dozen streams from high pressure hydrants, no fire could get beyond our control. The dwelling district with its thousands of homes is equally well protected. So, as we are not in earthquake or volcanic territory it would seem that we are immune from every natural calamity.

Bawbeese Lake

One great requisite to build up a city is its water supply. Adequate quantity and superior quality are essentials. In these particulars we are fortunate in our relation to Bawbeese Lake. Descriptive of this lake it has been well said that, "Altogether it has a value beyond computation. We could not afford to part with it for any price; no, not for a million dollars. More and more this magnificent body of water, situate on the very hilltop, without adequate known inlet, but with ceaseless outflow, sustained by invisible resource, God only knows where from, is coming to be valued not only for its fire protection, its sewer cleansing, and its constant abundant water and ice supply, but as a growing popular summer resort." This statement awakened great interest to discover the real source of supply. People searched in every direction, but as there is no higher ground in all this region no source could be found. However, as the lake itself has a deep, dark, unfathomable center, and shows signs of boiling up from the bottom, it is believed that this splendid lake is fed by some subterranean spring or stream. Whatever the source may be it is abundant, and of pure quality as a state analysis shows. It was on this lake that our Four Oared Crew of Hillsdale boys began the training that, together with their many victories, made themselves and Hillsdale famous the world over. Their captain, Mr. C. W. Terwilliger, still lives to testify, that in addition to their correct habits of life, they largely owe their success to the air and water of this locality. And it is safe to say that of the more than 5,000 Michigan inland lakes there are none more beautiful, famous and valuable than our grand old Lake Bawbeese.

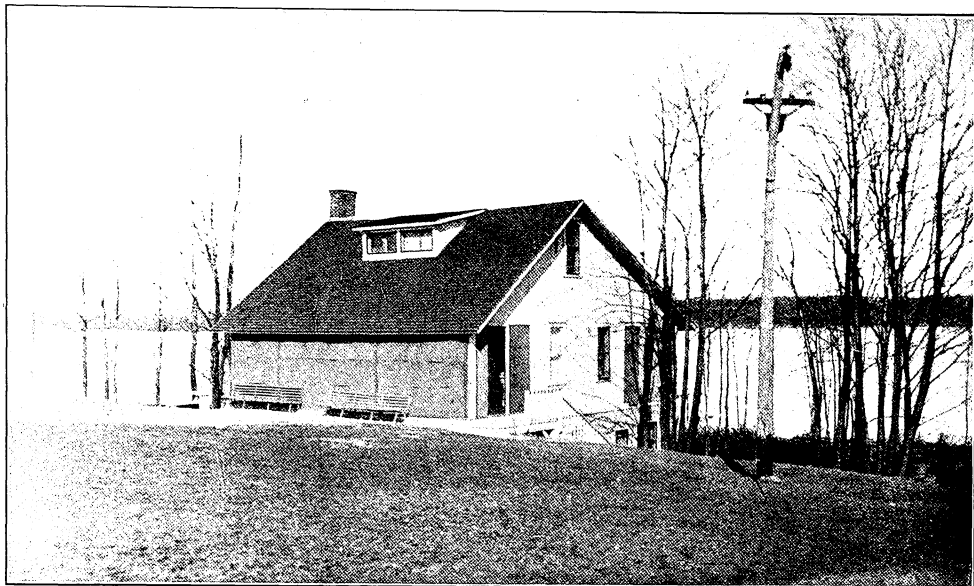
Ash-Tee Wette

Related to Bawbeese Lake is the little village of nearly half a hundred cottages. In the main these are grouped on the south shore among the natural forest trees and are reached by carriage road at a distance of about three miles. This road is lighted in the night time by electric lamps and the cottages are lighted by electricity. Many people of our city resort to these temporary homes in the heated season to enjoy the shade of the trees and the cool and refreshing breezes of the lake. Part of them recreate daytimes by rowing, bathing, and fishing. Merchants and other business men return to their stores and offices for the day, but the cottagers are housed at Ash-tee-Wette nights for cool and invigorating sleep. Thus many of our citizens get all the benefits of recreation at our own resort, spending their money at home, and living sumptuously every day. They order supplies by telephone and the grocer delivers the goods. How much better to do this than to incur large traveling expenses to some distant resort, and then spend their money for support at some far away place. Also comes the fact that as fast as the quality of our resort becomes known more and more people are coming here. Already some have come from Kentucky and Texas and spent their summers for many years. The Brewer brothers, former residents here but now of Toledo, Ohio, own a cottage at Ash-tee-Wette and have occupied same each summer for twenty years.

The Hillsdale Greenhouse

Carl Hirsch, the proprietor of the Hillsdale Floral Park, is a native of Saxony, Germany. He was reared and educated in his native land, where he learned the art of landscape gardening. In 1894 he came to Hillsdale to assist in caring for the houses and grounds of the railroad company. In 1896 he was given entire charge of all this business. Through industry and skill Mr. Hirsch has built up one of the most complete and prosperous greenhouse plants in Southern Michigan. Its magnitude can be best understood when it is known that there are more than 30,000 square feet under glass, and that this together with the buildings, and equipments, represents an outlay of \$20,000. And its work will be best comprehended when it is known that Mr. Hirsch is the landscape gardener for all the main line stations of the New York Central System between Toledo and Chicago, and all the branches leading to Ypsilanti, Jackson, Lansing and Fort Wayne. It is no small matter that all these stations are furnished with shrubs, plants, and flowers from Hillsdale, and that their refreshing beauty is the result of the handiwork of Carl Hirsch of this city. Truly this great plant is a feature of which Hillsdale is justly proud.

Later.—Since writing the foregoing Mr. Hirsch has been very ill, with scarcely even chances for recovery. But living or dead we feel that it is only just to pay this brief tribute to his life work.



The Country Club

Coming a little nearer the city, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away, are the grounds of the Hillsdale Country Club. These consist of 45 acres of land bordering on the west shore of Bawbeese Lake. This club was organized about two years ago and numbers 30 or 35 members. They already have a Club House located near the lake. This is a two-story frame building with basement and verandas, making it well suited for the purposes of a resort. They have an exceptionally good nine-hole golf course, intending to make improvements from year to year until it will compare favorably with any golf club grounds in the state. They also have tennis courts, ball grounds, etc., so that with the added privileges of boating, bathing and fishing, it will be seen that this is an ideal recreation park. Caretakers are at the Club House the year round and meals are served to its members whenever desired. The building and grounds are lighted by the city's electric plant and water is supplied from pure boiling springs.

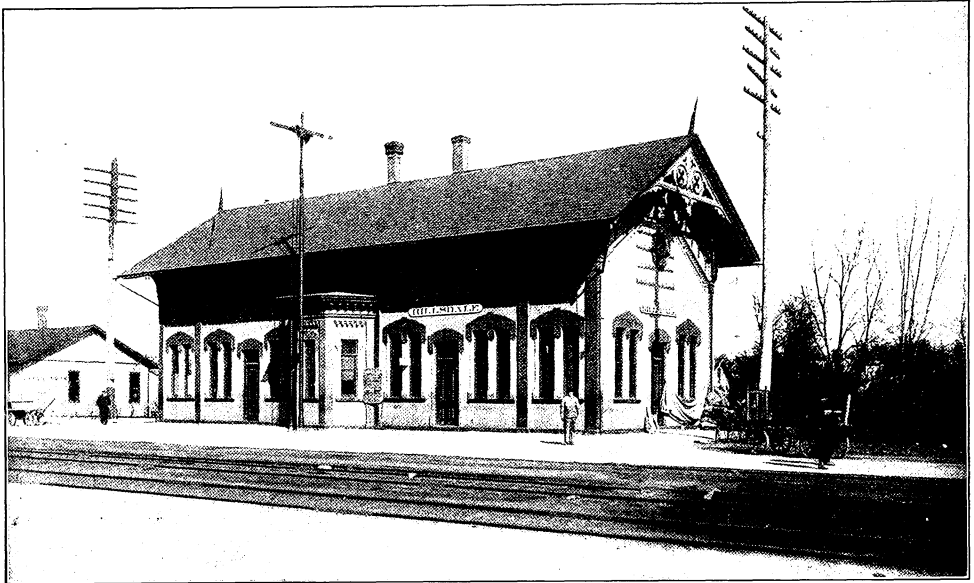
Permanent Improvements

The City of Hillsdale is particularly fortunate in its supply of sand and gravel for building purposes—for bridges, for sidewalks, for curb and gutter, and for every other thing requiring these materials. From the first it has been the policy of the city to do its work well. It has never believed that true economy consisted in cheapness. It has rather sought quality and endurance. Instead of flimsy, narrow affairs all our bridges are solid cement culverts built across our streets and covered and graded to a level to last for ages. Our streets in all the business part and some of the residence localities were so well paved that in the years they have been used the wear is hardly perceptible. And still the work of paving is going on in the places where same is most needed. Of our sidewalks, we can safely claim the highest quality and the greatest number of miles of any city of our size in the world. Recently our residence portions have adopted the curb and gutter system and the parking out from sidewalk to curb. This facilitates drainage and extends the lawns so that more and more the city appears beautiful everywhere. And our streets north and south, and east and west, throughout the city, are lined with as fine shade trees as were ever grown. Millions of dollars would be no price for them.

Prohibition Prohibits

In 1905 we said: "We plead guilty to having saloons and some other things which we could spare as well as not and pray that the time may soon come when they shall be no more." We can now say that our prayer has been answered. The saloons and "some other things" are gone, and we hope, forever. Hillsdale County went so overwhelmingly "dry" that no effort has ever been made to turn it back into the "wet" column. Nobody in Hillsdale is

seen reeling and staggering under the influence of liquor. And it is said that the prohibition law has been the best enforced in this county of any county in the state. So well has this been done that crime, the aftermath of the liquor business, does not show up on the court calendar and the lawyers have very little to do. And being "dry," we are supplying the things that give life instead of the things which destroy life. The result is apparent that many families are made prosperous and happy instead of poor and miserable. It is no small comfort to know that we are enjoying such a low crime and disease record as is given us by the State Board of Health. Who that respects himself or regards his family would seek a rum-town for a home? Because we are "dry" tally a great big reason for residence in Hillsdale.



Railroad Passenger House

Hillsdale a Railroad Center

The City of Hillsdale is very fortunate in its railroad accommodations. For both passenger and freight traffic no inland town or city in the state is better cared for than we are by the Lake Shore and its branches. For many years our passenger depot has been better than the average for cities of our size. Related to its passenger department the railroad has recently completed a very substantial building for offices of Superintendent and Train Dispatchers. Also, the freight department has been so improved that we have the finest freight offices and best up-to-date freight house of any place of our size in all the country. These improvements have been of such extensive nature that the cost has aggregated nearly \$100,000. The map shows that Hillsdale is truly a more than common inland railroad center. We surely can go to or from the east or west, north or south, and all the points between, at almost any hour—except southeast—and it is only a question of time when an interurban line will put in this last spoke in the wheel. Yes, we can go anywhere in any direction at will and everybody can come to us. Since writing the foregoing the New York Central Railroad and L. S. & M. S. have consolidated, so that now it is the New York Central System. Also a map has been placed in the railroad station showing the killed and injured on the then L. S. & M. S. Railway during the year 1914, between Buffalo and Chicago. The number killed was 131 and the number injured was 171, and the point we make is that with its six radiating roads only two people were injured at Hillsdale. This speaks volumes for a dry city when compared with the large numbers killed and injured in rum cities.

And while you are looking at the passenger house, see that little frame building beyond and know that it is the famous "Hillsdale Pie House," owned by S. C. Rowleson of Grand Rapids, Mich. Always a good place to get a lunch.



N. Y. C. Offices—Lansing Div.



New Freight Offices and Freight House

Hillsdale County

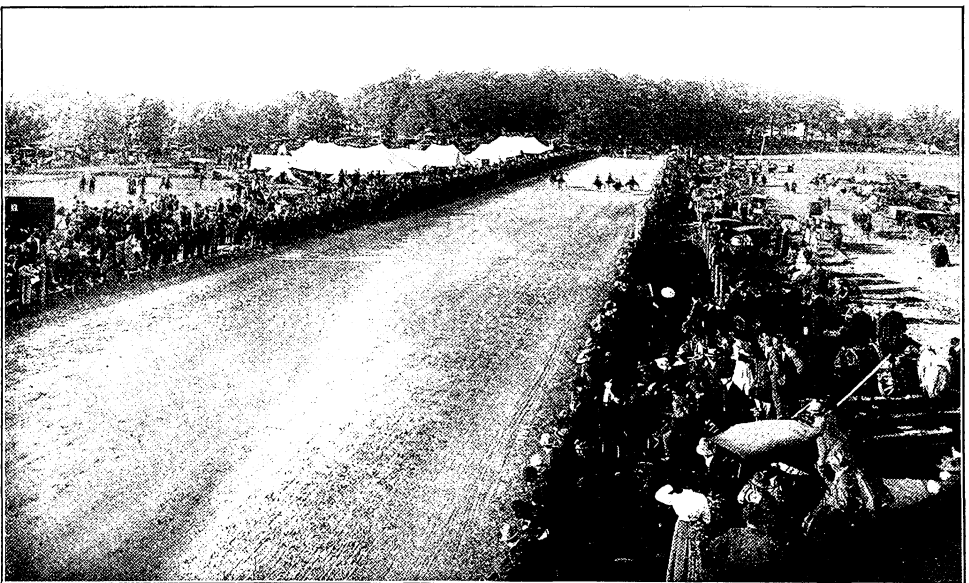
There are several reasons why Hillsdale County is a fit dwelling place for just such a city as ours. This county is conceded by the eastern markets to be one of the best counties for quantity and quality of stock in Michigan, and has been ranked for many years as the "banner county." Another thing is that no county in the state has more complete and satisfactory Rural Free Delivery U. S. Mail service than Hillsdale County. And another thing is that no county in the state is more thoroughly equipped and furnishes better Telephone Service. And it is to the credit of the county that besides all other valuable things in its provision for its dependent poor in its farm and other buildings, it voted \$25,000 for a new Infirmary and built a very fine brick and stone structure with slate roof, supplied with water from its own water works, and lighted with electricity by a line from the city's electric plant.

And as indicative of its wealth, no county of its size and population in the state supports more banks in its towns outside its own County Seat. Health means wealth, and that our county is in the lead see what McClure said in the last issue of Public Health: "Hillsdale County organized a civic health movement that is an example which may be followed by other counties in the prevention of disease and delinquency." The logical deduction is that the better the general health the lower the death rate. For all of this there is a reason. The people are taking the lead in the right kind of living. More than six years ago the organization of the Young Men's Christian Association began and both parents and children have enjoyed the benefit of the uplift. Purity means prosperity and length of days. Right along this line we have just learned that the Y. M. C. A. of this county is the best organized and contains the largest number of members of any county in the United States. This organization just held an annual banquet with an attendance of about 500 people, and one glory of the occasion was that clean people enjoyed one public place where there was no smoking. Last but not least was the quality of the music furnished by Prof. Conway Peters' Orchestra, it alone being worth the whole admission fee.

Again along this line is the fact that this county has a duly incorporated Humane Society which is doing a valuable work in the prevention of cruelty to animals. This is not a society for gain and glory, but a society of uncompensated service to ameliorate the unnecessary suffering of the brute creation. For many years Mrs. C. M. Barre was the worthy and efficient President, and the work has been so faithfully conducted that great good is being accomplished.

Hillsdale County Fair

In the southeastern part of our city is the home of the Hillsdale County Agricultural Society. Thus the conceded "Most Popular Fair on Earth" is annually held right at our door. At the outset broad plans were laid by Col. F. M. Holloway, an educated farmer, and they have been well executed. The wealth of this society in its buildings and grounds is not exceeded by any county in the state. To meet the growing needs of the society improvements have been steadily going on for half a century. For the main part, where the buildings are located and where the exhibits are made, the grounds are just rolling enough to be dry and pleasant always. The ground where the race-track is located is level and the track has been so well constructed and maintained that it is said to be one of the best half-mile tracks in three states. But all these things would have little meaning were it not for the wise conducting of the fair itself. Added to all that has gone before is the fact that our townsman, C. W. Terwilliger, who was a member of the famous rowing crew and learned that only clean living could win victories, has been its efficient Secretary for the past 18 years. His belief that only right could win success has been carried into the management of the fair and carefully worked out. He aimed first and foremost at the equitable distribution of the funds through premiums to the real exhibitors who made the fair. Then as between the legitimate and illegitimate things he drew the line and with unyielding nerve maintained it, so that more and more



Race Track, County Fair Grounds



Automobiles at Fair 1914—Value Estimated at \$1,500,000



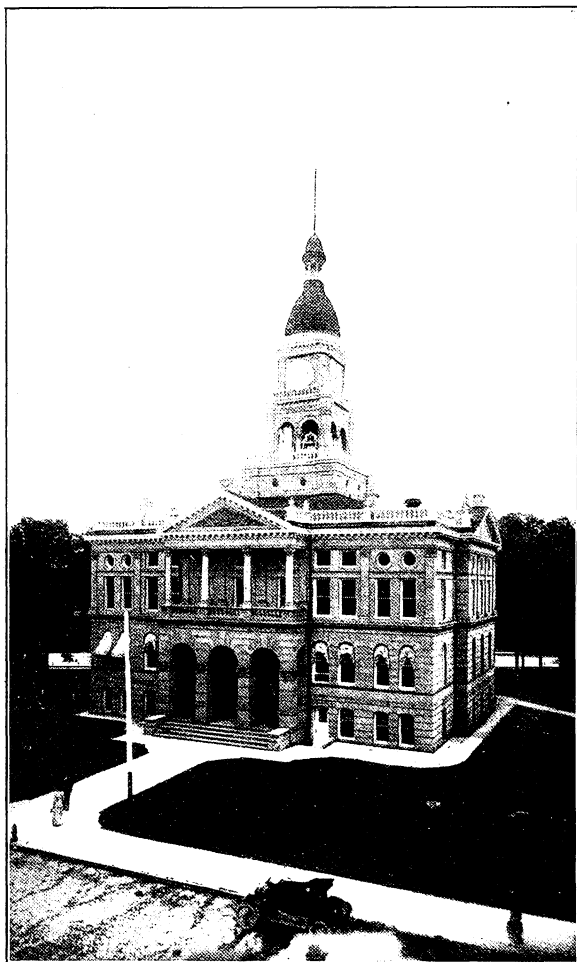
Woman's Congress

people could attend the fair without fear of gambling or any kind of swindling concessions. The people have not only been thus safeguarded as against financial and moral danger, but they appreciate the steady adherence of the management in requiring only the standard admission of 25 cents. Altogether these things have stimulated such loyalty that the annual attendance has been about 40,000 people. If room would permit we might speak of many things, but will only say that besides all the natural functions of the fair the grounds furnish an ideal place for Sunday School gatherings, family and society reunions and home comings, and the great Chautauquas, and last but not least is the handmaid of the fair—The Woman's Congress—that has grown to become a leading interest and has a building set apart for its own use.

In a final word, it is only just to say that the crowning glory of this great enterprise is the fact that this organization has always had a competent board of directors and officers who have advocated and sustained every progressive measure until they have built up and

enjoy the confidence of the people, and this is the secret of the unparalleled success of the Hillsdale County Fair. And now comes an old resident who has known the history of the fair all the way and says that in a word, "Hillsdale County Fair has been 65 years doing just what it agreed to do." Date of 1915 Fair—Sept. 27 to Oct. 2. For later dates send to Secretary for catalogue.

Hillsdale County Court House

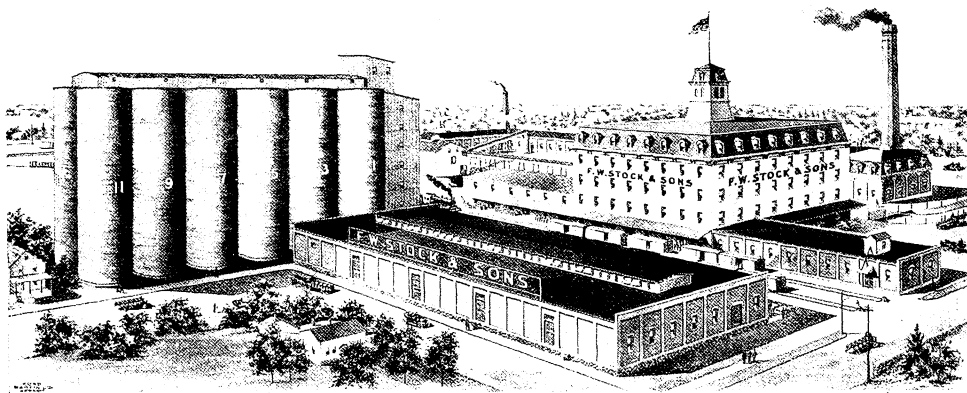


This building is located near the center of our city. It was built sixteen years ago under a bonding by the county of \$45,000, and was completed within that amount. The people were slow to bond for this great public necessity and some of them snarled and whined about their taxes years after all the bonds were paid. But the wisdom of having done this is shown by the fact that not very long afterward the Court House, as it now stands, could not have been built for less than \$100,000. And very recently this building has been painted without and painted and decorated within so that it looks even better than when first built. This structure is of Berea sandstone and is very imposing. It provides two rest rooms, one for men and one for women, in basement; office of Judge of Probate, Clerk's office, Treasurer's office, Register of Deeds' office, and office of Hillsdale County Mutual Insurance Company on main or first floor, all provided with ample vaults, and Court room, Judge's room, Jury room, Prosecuting Attorney's room, Court Stenographer's room, Supervisors' room, County Surveyor's room, and Drain Commissioners' room in second story, and not to be overlooked is the clock and chime in the tower, with an illuminated dial. And this chime was cast by The Meneely Bell Co. of Troy, N. Y., was presented to the County and City by Wm. W. Mitchell of Cadillac, Mich., and cost, installed, \$4,000, and is said by competent judges to be the equal of anything of its size in the world.

Flouring Mill of F. W. Stock & Sons

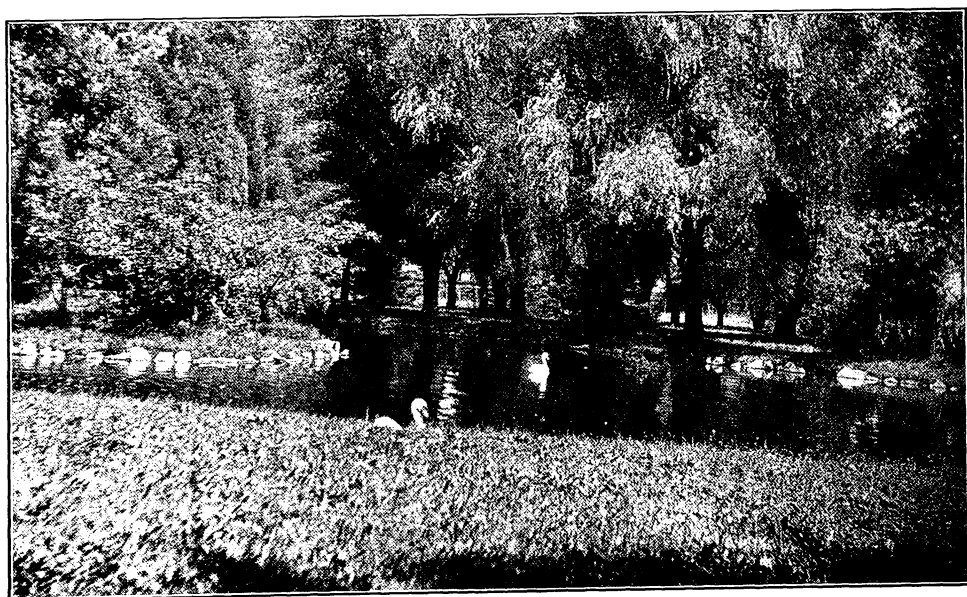
After portraying the general features of the City of Hillsdale, followed by description of Bawbeese Lake and things related to it, we naturally come to speak of the mill of F. W. Stock & Sons. It is with peculiar sense of responsibility that we attempt to tell of this largest enterprise of the city, and one of the largest of its kind in the United States. This is the oldest business plant in Hillsdale, there having been a flouring mill on this site for three-quarters of a century, known, at the time of Mr. Stock's purchase, as the Cook & Waldron Mills. At its beginning, with nothing more than the old fashioned mill-stone, with no capacity for any given number of barrels of flour, it was simply a toll grist-mill grinding a few grists of grain brought to it by farmers living in the country round about. At most it had a capacity of only fifty barrels per day when it came into Mr. Stock's possession nearly half a century ago. With Mr. Stock's outlook for better things the mill was enlarged and the

machinery improved and increased until its capacity is 1,500 barrels per day of the finest flour in the world. Commensurate with the necessities to propel all the requisite machinery to make this mill famous the world over, Mr. Stock installed a Corliss engine of 1,000 horsepower, and ceaselessly day and night, Sundays excepted, this great industry is doing its work. Think of a clean, industrious young man of German birth rising from a wage of \$12.00 per month to a business the annual output of which is \$3,000,000!



Besides having been attracted to Hillsdale because of its beautiful situation, Mr. Stock desired the superior quality of wheat grown in this region. As the local supply became inadequate Mr. Stock more and more drew upon the west, until in order to care for this inflow it became necessary to construct storage tanks of the capacity of more than a quarter million bushels. To accommodate all incoming and outgoing shipping the L. S. & M. S. Railway constructed spur tracks to make it convenient to deliver all grain directly into the elevators and load all outgoing cars.

During the growth of this gigantic enterprise the Stock family has been reared and educated. The father and mother, Frederick W. Stock and wife, gave to the world eight American born children. The father, nearing 87 years of age, and four of the children, having gone on before, the mother and four children still remain. The daughter, Louise, is the wife of Hon. Chauncey F. Cook, President of the Hillsdale Savings Bank; Frederick W. Stock, Jr., has charge of the Mill Office at Boston, Mass., and Alexander and Adolph D. succeed to the management of this great milling plant known under its corporate name—F. W. Stock & Sons. Added to our word pictures see what the laws of light say of this great industry.



Mrs. Stock's Park

Ten years ago, after speaking of the mill, we said: "Near related to this, just across the street up the stream, is Mrs. Stock's beautiful 12-acre park. This is a creation of the miller's wife, who has put her taste, skill and money into it to make convenient resort for the family and their friends, and every passing year adds to its beauty." Truly this has come to be one of the beauty spots of the city.



Parental Home of the Stock Family

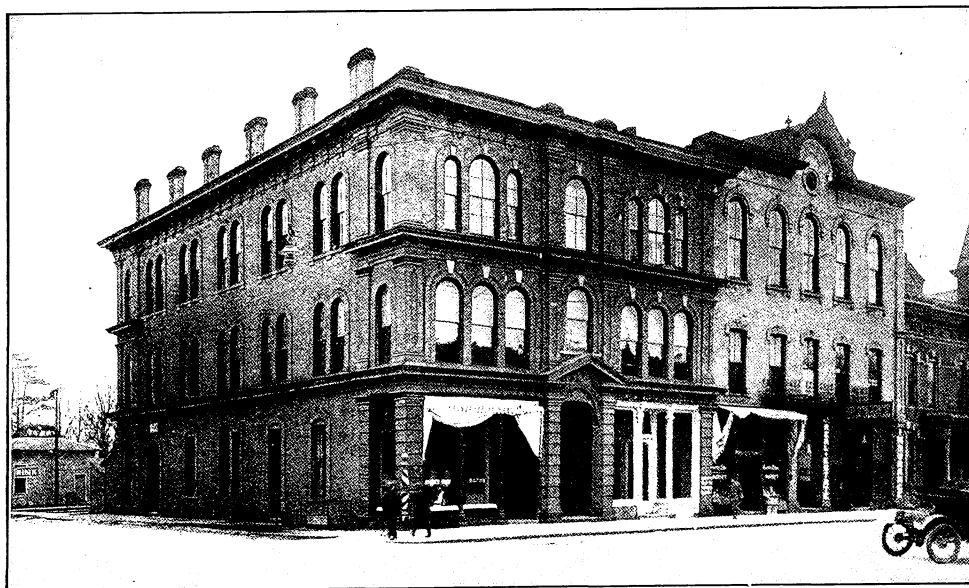
Our Business Houses





Goodrich & Hallock Drug Store and Masonic Hall

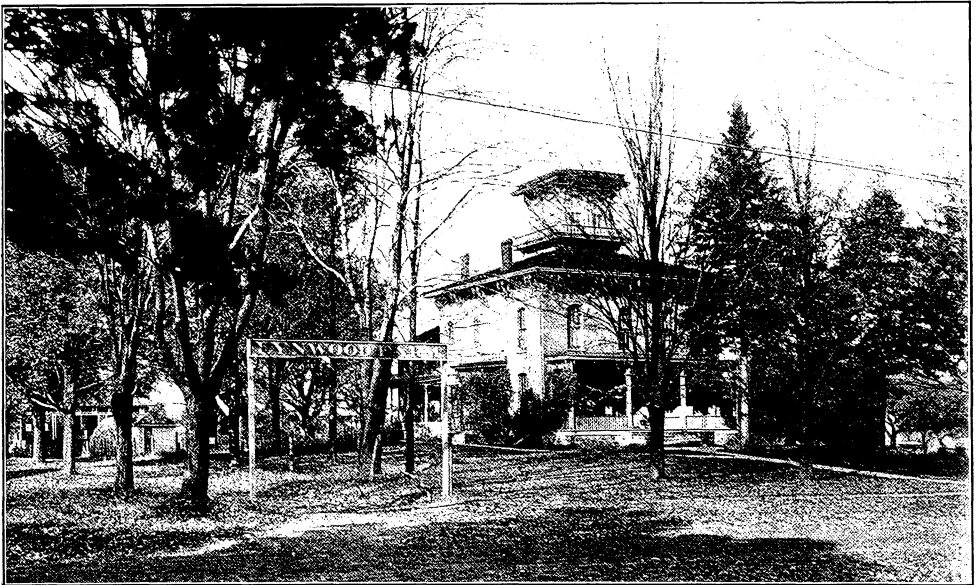
We have some of the best large stores and business houses in Southern Michigan. In the quality of our mercantile structures it is said that we have more and finer plate glass fronts than any little city between Buffalo and Chicago. And they are stocked with all kinds of goods needful to provide for human want. No town can outrank Hillsdale in all the leading lines of trade. Our Dry Goods Houses, our Clothing Houses, our Boot and Shoe Stores, our Jewelry Stores, our Hardware Stores, our Grocery Stores, our Furniture Stores, our Drug Stores, our Variety Stores, our Markets, our Bakeries, and our Wholesale Grocery Company, are all of first quality. Then we have our Great Rink, our 5 and 10 Cent Stores, our Coal Dealers, our Automobile Garages, our Barber Shops, our Laundries, the only real Book Shop in the county, our nearby Fruit Farms and our nearby Poultry Farms, etc., etc., until as a city we have every essential thing at hand. A trip through the business part to see the lay-out of local productions will surprise the observer. Added to all these are the things which are produced in the far away lands brought to us by the commerce of a Christian civilization, until it would seem that we do not lack any good thing. Truly the markets of the world contribute their very best right at our door. See cuts of some of our Business Houses—Goodrich & Hallock, Central Dry Goods Co., and Suttons' Block.



The John R. Sutton Block

For Dwelling Place

A tour about the city will convince the observer that Hillsdale is one of the finest places for residence in all the world. The lay of the land, the spacious dwelling lots fronting on wide and airy streets, the fact of general convenience to all business points, and the freedom from objectionable surroundings, unite to make it a city of pleasant homes. The quality of our dwelling houses ranks very high. Several people of late who have seen our city for the first time express surprise at the character of our homes. Dr. Eugene Frisbie, who has seen much of the world on both sides of the sea, said: "Hillsdale is just one great nice park full of houses." Francis T. Perkins, a member of the famous Hoosier Male Quartette, and who has traveled well over the United States, says that, "After having visited over 2,000 towns and cities I have never seen the equal of Hillsdale for residence." Because of the fact of our bountiful supply of water through municipal ownership and civic pride, our lawns are well kept so that even in time of drought the whole city is fresh and beautiful. Hillsdale is a very clean city and great care is taken to keep it clean. This fact is sustained by unquestioned authority. Mr. D. E. McClure, representing the Michigan Board of Health, says: "Hillsdale City and County through education and civic living have the lowest disease and crime record of any corresponding unit of population in Michigan." So, added to all other reasons, life here is so crowned with social, intellectual and religious privileges that it would seem that no other place on earth could be more to be desired. The great double thought which we desire to impress upon the reader is the general safety, and the fact that life is made rich in so many ways in Hillsdale. Strangers from everywhere are invited to come and look over our city and find out whether we are telling the truth.



Lynwood Home

The beautiful home of Mrs. G. W. Kelley and Mrs. Helen C. Flagg is located five blocks from the Court House on Howell Street, in southern part of the city. It is one of the historical places of the county, originally a farm of 160 acres, situated on a slight elevation and gives a fine view of the city and its surroundings, and is an ideal location for beautiful homes. It is now being platted into one of the city's finest residential suburbs by the celebrated Wakefield Realty Co. of Shelbyville, Kentucky.

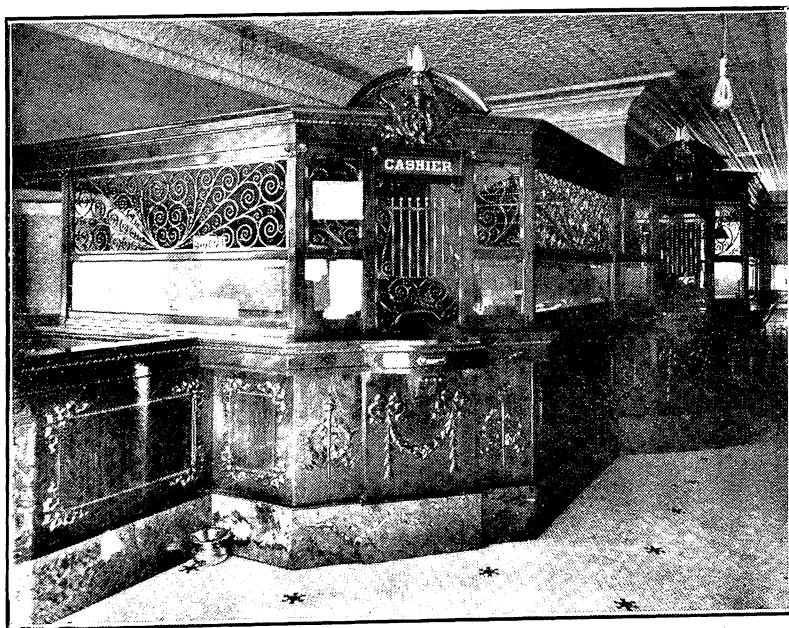


Residence of Hon. Corvis M. Barre

Our Banks

Ten years ago we said: "We have three of the strongest and best equipped banks of any little city." The same is still true and their successive statements show a healthy growth.

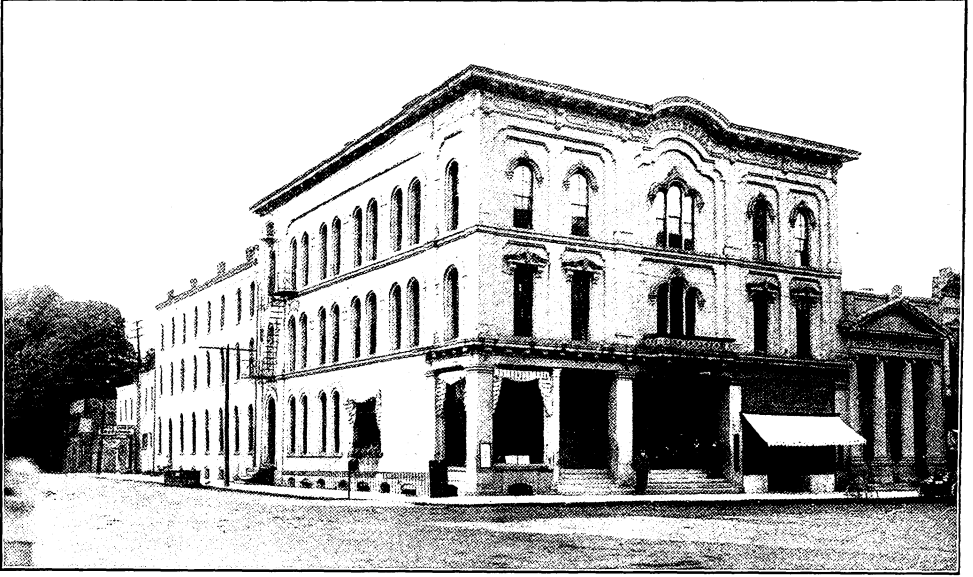
They are "The First National Bank," Frank M. Stewart, President; "The First State Savings Bank," F. A. Roethlisberger, President, and "The Hillsdale Savings Bank," Chauncey F. Cook, President. Their combined resources aggregate over \$2,000,000. And confidence in all of them is such that there never comes a whisper of doubt in regard to their soundness. Under the management of men of such established character, with such safeguard of vaults and locks, people who entrust their valuables to their keeping need have no fear. And a good



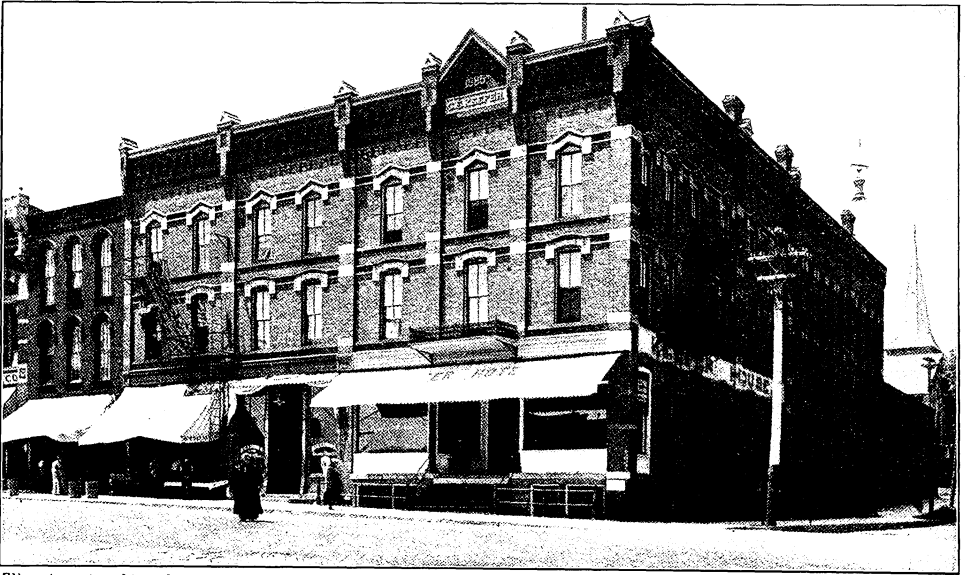
Interior of First State Savings Bank

thing for men and women not accustomed to invest money, and for children who desire to save up small sums, is that all these banks pay three per cent. on savings deposits. The showing of these banks is remarkable by the side of the fact that there are nine other banks in the towns outside of the city, and two just across the line in Lenawee County, so near that they are half supported by Hillsdale County, really equivalent altogether to ten other banks. No city of our size has three better banks.

Our Hotels



The Smith House and Hillsdale Savings Bank



The Keefer Hotel

A few years ago we said: "Our hotels are first-class and a credit to any place." Being in a dry city they are temperate and orderly, and the stranger finds himself in a quiet, home-like hotel. They are well located as related to City Hall, Post Office, Court House, Business Houses, and the Railroad Depot. They are known as the "Smith House," corner of Howell

and Bacon Streets; the "Keefer House," corner of Howell and North Streets, and the "Mosher House," at foot of Broad Street. The two first named are fine three story brick structures of good style without and within. They take first rank when compared with anything between Toledo and Chicago. The last named is a brick and frame building, is an old landmark, is nearest to depot, and is well kept. We have other hotels and restaurants that altogether take good care of the traveling public. This is so well done that no complaint is ever heard. It has been said that commercial travelers can well afford to come to Hillsdale from any point reasonably near to stay over night or spend the Sabbath. Really Hillsdale is the home of a good long list of commercial travelers and there is room for many more and their families.

Our Newspapers

A few years ago there came a man spying out the land for a place to publish a daily newspaper. This man was Editor D. W. Grandon and he liked Hillsdale so well that he bought out two old and well established political weekly papers—"The Democrat" and "The Hillsdale Standard"—and in their place substituted "The Hillsdale Daily." This merging dropped out politics and gave the people a non-partisan daily. From the start the new paper was outspoken on the temperance question and vigorously advocated public improvements in the city and all the country round about. Because of the fact of a daily and the strong temperance sentiment of the locality, the new paper soon became a favorite and was very popular. Its editorials were positive and spirited, and its columns were always open to a fair discussion of all public questions. It often gave important news a day in advance of the great Chicago or Detroit dailies, and the management so increased its subscription lists that together with its character and large circulation Hillsdale was justly proud of its daily. Surely, after these years of experience neither the city nor the country would part with it for any price. And now, at this writing, December 15, 1914, comes word that a new Editor is in the chair. So, we attempt to take the measure of Mr. H. J. Burgess to help us to forecast the future of our daily. And after reading his Inaugural we feel encouraged both by its ability and spirit. To begin with, we like the way he came to Hillsdale as set forth when he says: "I have been attracted to the city and its people as I have been in no other case. The solid worth and genuine sincerity of those whom I have met, have convinced me that Hillsdale is the city and county which I wish to permanently call my home." And now we are watching and waiting, hoping that our daily will grow better and better as time goes on. So here's good will and wishes to ye new Editor.

We have also a twice-a-week, the "Hillsdale Leader," and several print shops, the leading one of which is owned by Ralph W. Hayes.

City Hall

Ten years ago we said: "The chief thing now on hand is the building of a City Hall." We can now say that this has been done and its cornerstone reads—"A. D. 1911." After a constant struggle of seven years to make this possible the bonding for a \$50,000 City Hall was finally carried by a vote of nearly 6 to 1. The location is at the very center of the city. The edifice is of dressed stone and enameled brick, and in both external and internal style is unlike anything ever built. Being surrounded by streets on every side, it is safe from external exposure by fire. The basement being above ground the building is practically three stories high and contains offices for Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer, Surveyor, Marshal, Board of Public Works, Council Chamber, Committee Rooms, Ladies' Rest Room, and sundry other conveniences. It also has a large rear basement room which anticipates a possible auto truck fire department. The Clerk's office, Treasurer's office, and office of Public Works have each a fire-proof vault. By city ordinance a voting precinct has been designated and set apart for each of the four wards for registration and polling place. This arrangement has carried out an original design and has proved to be very satisfactory. The whole building is heated by a steam heating plant and is lighted by electricity from the city's own electric plant. Its abundant water supply which includes four drinking fountains, is furnished by the city's own water works. Altogether for material, style, and convenience this is believed to be the best and best equipped City Hall of any city of our size in the world. Visitors from everywhere are attracted by this building and upon being shown through it declare that it is good enough for any city several times larger than Hillsdale. And to help make this commanding centerpiece just what it ought to be we shall always be mindful that Mr. William W. Mitchell came to our aid with a gift of \$5,000. In recognition of this a bronze tablet has been erected on the interior walls of the City Hall which reads as follows:



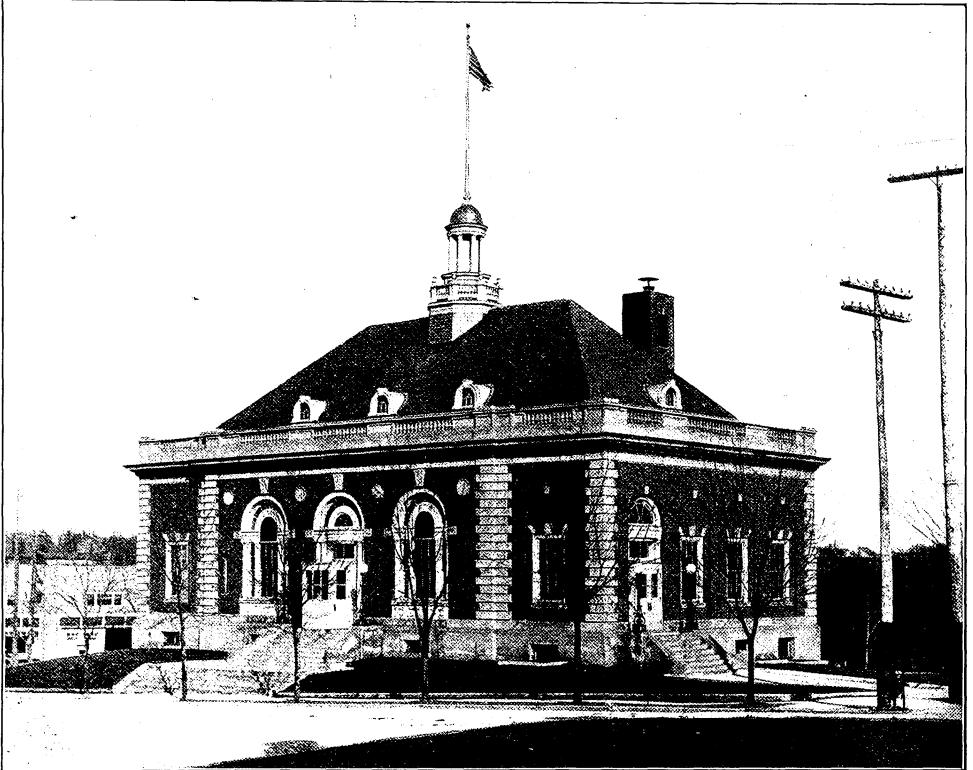
The City Hall

"This Tablet is Erected
 By the Citizens of Hillsdale
 In Grateful Acknowledgement
 Of the Generous Gift to this Building
 By
 William Whittier Mitchell
 Of Cadillac, Michigan
 Who was Born and Reared
 In this City."

Federal Building

To the everlasting credit of Hon. Washington Gardner, our former Member of Congress, be it said that, under a \$65,000 government appropriation, we have as fine a Post Office Building as any city of our size in the United States. In its location it has a very interesting history. Several sites were being offered and the danger of a mistake became so imminent that a public meeting was called and a citizens committee of five good men, of which Dr. Walter H. Sawyer was chairman, was appointed to take the matter of location in charge. Feeling that the appropriation was for all the people, and that the location ought to be equitable to all, interest became very intense. The government's agent—a Mr. Sherwood—came from Washington to determine the site. Several locations were considered, but none were satisfactory to Mr. Sherwood. His attention was finally called to the block that the city had bought for a City Hall. Mr. Sherwood being asked if he had seen the City Hall lot, said, "Yes." Being asked how he liked it, said, "It's fine." Being then asked how he would like to locate the Federal Building on the City Hall lot, said, "There could be no objection. It's large enough, it has a street on all sides, it's right in the center of the city, and is conveniently located to the depot to handle the mails, it's a little sunken but Uncle Sam can fill it." Upon consideration of the price Mr. Sherwood was asked if he would recommend that the government should pay \$7,500 for the lot, and he said that he would.

Mr. F. A. Roethlisberger was Post Master at the time the appropriation was obtained and was associated with the committee when the question of the location of the building was settled. Thus by yielding our first purchase of lot for City Hall to Uncle Sam and buying our present site for City Hall, both buildings were located just right. By this shift we made a profit on our sale of \$2,500 and saved a difference between our former and present City Hall lot of \$1,200. This building is also splendidly equipped with steam heat, electric light and gas, and water. And these buildings with their individual merit and their united investment of \$115,000, settled the great question of the centralization of our city, and everybody is happy.



The Federal Building

Hillsdale College

For a description of this institution we use in part what its own catalogue says. Of its location we copy as follows: "Hillsdale, Michigan, the seat of Hillsdale College, is a city of nearly 6,000 inhabitants, favored with a well enforced prohibition law. It is a commercial and manufacturing city, in a flourishing agricultural community, and has excellent public schools, a dozen churches, and exceptionally cultured people in sympathy and affiliation with the college. It is a few miles from the State lines of Ohio and Indiana, and is easily accessible by the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, of the New York Central System, and its several branches radiating from Hillsdale. By the main line it is 178 miles east of Chicago, and 179 miles west of Cleveland; by the Ypsilanti division, 90 miles southwest of Detroit; by the Lansing division, 64 miles south of Lansing; by the Ft. Wayne division, 71 miles north of Ft. Wayne, Ind., and 29 miles south of Jackson, Mich.

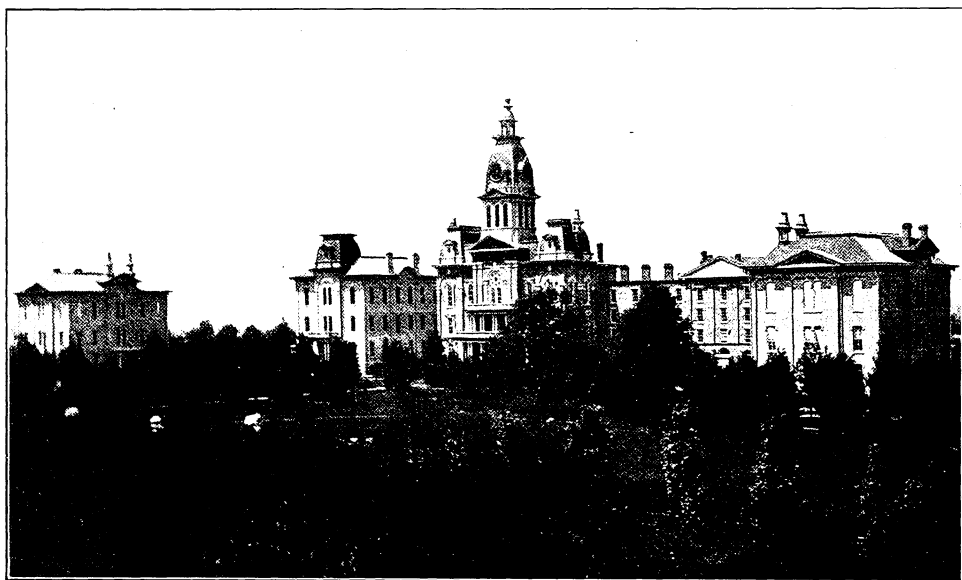
The College grounds comprise twenty-five acres on "College Hill," an elevation which commands a comprehensive view of the city and a variety of hills and dales, which give the name "Hillsdale" to the college and city. From the buildings are seen neighboring villages and a chain of beautiful small lakes close to the city limits, whose outlet is the St. Joseph River, a small stream running through the city.

The campus is rare in beauty of location, outlook and topography, well shaded by trees of natural growth and groves planted by professors and students during more than half a century. The fountain and soldiers' monument at the main entrance of the campus, the

shrubbery, beds of flowers, class stones, cement walks, and other adornments, further beautify the grounds. There are six buildings all heated with steam, five of them from a central plant, and supplied with gas and electric lights.

In our little booklet of 1905 we said: "On the north is our beautiful college campus, said by critics to be unsurpassed by anything of its kind in Italy or Switzerland; and, thereon as commanding and convenient buildings as crown any little city."

But, while the grounds, buildings and contents mean so much, representing as they do a financial value of a quarter million dollars, they have small meaning as a part of this great educational institution. Really these things only make a home for the college in which to do its work, and this work is done at an annual cost of about \$25,000. And be it remembered that this sum is gathered from interest of its more than \$300,000 of endowment and other sources, paid to its president, professors, teachers and officers, who spend the same for their living right in their home city. Then, too, all outside students bring the money needful for their support from their homes and spend the same in Hillsdale. While this element can only be approximated, it is safe to estimate it at \$25,000, so that it will be seen that as a feeder to the city the college has an annual financial value of about \$50,000. And related to the financial question is the fact that a very large number of families are brought to Hillsdale because of the college, and their contribution to the circulating medium, to enlarge the business of the city, exceeds many times the amount which is contributed directly through the college treasury and in the living expenses of employes and students. And these constitute facts that all the business interests of the city ought to appreciate.



But above all are the literary and religious privileges brought within the reach of the people. These give mental and moral uplift that can only be enjoyed in a college town. And added to all other things is the value of the service in educating young men and women. The college educated its own President—Joseph William Mauck—and he is so well informed that he could name a very long list who have gone out to fill high places all over the world. Indeed, Hillsdale College has been particularly fortunate in the ability and success of its graduates. And for all this we do not have to look far for the reason.

Beginning in 1844, at Spring Arbor, as Michigan Central College, it opened in Hillsdale in 1855, and has been a pioneer in the things which fruit in success. It was the second—possibly the third—in all the country to admit women on an equality with men. It was the first college in Michigan to organize under the general college law of 1855; to come under the general law of 1911; to admit women to full privileges; to graduate a woman with a degree, and to elect women to its board of trustees; to erect a separate gymnasium; and among the non-state colleges, the first to introduce a department of domestic science, and to give to its graduates State teachers' certificates. Maintaining high standards in its general college courses, it has also been a pioneer in meeting the demands for the fitting of young people for practical life in its departments of music, fine arts, domestic science and business. It is also among the few colleges to offer extensive courses in religious education in which it has two professorships.

In the college there are four Literary Societies which not only are a great help to their membership in composition and oratory, but they furnish very interesting entertainments

for the public. Their Society Halls are very fine, taking first rank among all the colleges of the country. And a fact worthy of note is that the college records show an attendance of students from twenty-three different states and six foreign countries.

As indicative of the prosperity of the college is the significant fact that a few years ago its freshman class numbered thirty or forty members, whereas at the opening of the present college year it numbered 118 members. Ten years ago we issued 15,000 copies of a plain little booklet in which we included two paragraphs in the interest of the college and it has done its part to bring about the present favorable conditions. And ten years from now it will be interesting to know what this issue of 25,000 copies of a classified and illustrated booklet will have accomplished over the claim that Hillsdale can educate a family of children from Kindergarten to College graduation without a break, equal to any place in the world.

Finally the writer desires to say that it gives him great pleasure to speak thus of the college, growing out of his long acquaintance with it, and a more than common interest in it. Through wise management may it have real and well earned prosperity for all time.

Note that the author of this book is the only man living who attended this school the first term it ever held in its own building, that he is the only man living who attended and participated in the first commencement exercises it ever held, and that he is the only man living whose name is in the first catalogue it ever issued—and therefore that he is rightfully counted the Ancient of Ancients in Hillsdale College history.

If anybody anywhere desires further information concerning Hillsdale College, send for its catalogue to its President or Secretary.



Fountain and Soldiers' Monument, College Campus

Public Schools

Hillsdale began right in the conduct of its Public Schools. Very early it was fortunate in having the service of Prof. Charles G. Robertson for a continuous period of twenty-five years. As an educator and disciplinarian he took first rank and the foundation was thus well laid. The policy of the city has been to have a school board of educated men, men who should know the talent needed to secure the highest quality of public schools. To this end the school buildings and teaching have been the very best.

Ten years ago we said, "We have ample, commodious, and well distributed school buildings with as good schools as any other city, and our public schools deserve more than a passing mention. Our work is recognized and accepted by all the Colleges and Normal Schools of Michigan, and also by our State University. Only recently our High School was placed upon the approved list of High Schools by the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities as being one with fifty-four others meeting all the entrance requirements of colleges. By this affiliation and recognition our students are admitted to the different courses of these institutions without examination." And now, with the further improved conditions under the management of Supt. Samuel J. Gier for the past fifteen years, added to his service as principal of the High School for ten years, we can safely say that Hillsdale can educate a family of children from Kindergarten to College graduation, without a break, equal to any city in the world.

We illustrate the High School and Lake View school buildings and the other buildings are the Oak Street, the Paul Revere, the Bacon Street and the Central Building.



Our Bells

It has been well said that "People are known by the bells they ring." Bells reflect the character and taste of the people who use them. People of culture and refinement will not be represented by that which is cheap and gross. There is a wide difference between the genuine and the counterfeit. Bells have played their part from a very early date in the world's history. The effort all the way has been to find the combination of metals that would produce tones of the greatest purity and power. Deep, far-reaching, musical tones can only be produced by the blending of fine and costly metals. Hence the folly of undertaking to call the people up to the house of God with a bogus bell. Hillsdale is very

fortunate in the quality of its bells. The College Bell, the College Church Bell, the Catholic Bell, the Methodist Bell, the Public School Bell, the Fire Alarm Bell, and the Chime of four Bells in Court House Tower, are all of first quality and were made at Troy, New York. This chime, at a cost of \$2,100, together with a Seth Thomas Clock at a cost of \$1,600, making a total of \$3,700, was a gift of Hon. William W. Mitchell of Cadillac, Michigan, who is a son of the late Hon. Charles T. Mitchell, who gave the Mitchell Library to the city. The Meneely Bell Co. has furnished us a cut representing the Westminster Peal after which our chime is patterned. See inside of last cover page.

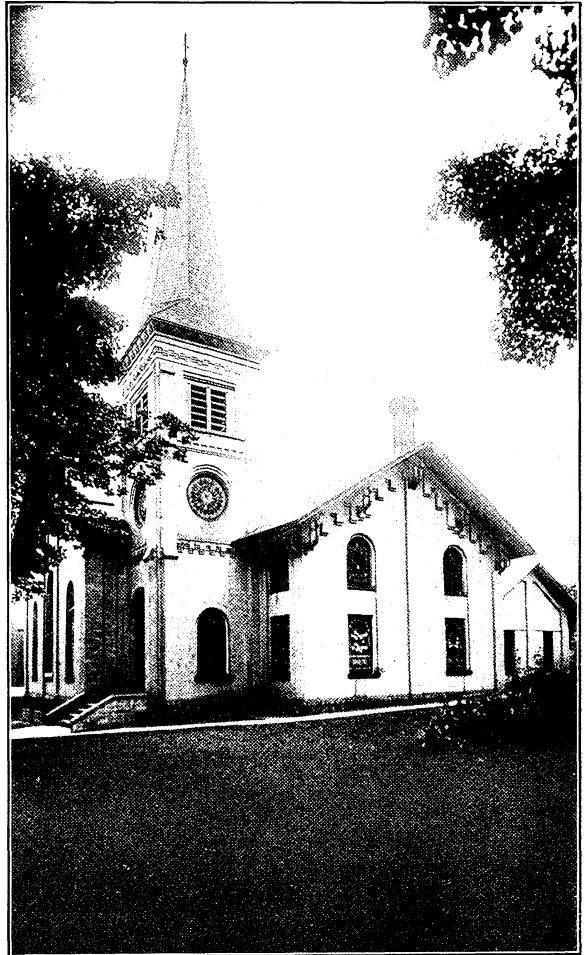
Our Churches

We have many and fine church buildings for the accommodation of all the leading shades of religious belief. The value of these edifices together with their contents and the sites upon which they are built, is estimated at \$150,000. There are two Baptist Churches, a Presbyterian Church, a Methodist Church, a United Brethren Church, a Free Methodist Church, a Catholic Church, an Episcopal Church, a Lutheran Church, an Adventist Church, and a Salvation Army. These edifices will easily convene all the church going people of the city, and strangers and visitors are always welcomed to the church of their choice. With no spirit of boasting, but to state a fact worthy of consideration, we can say that the pulpits of these churches are uniformly filled by ministers of a high grade of talent. Being a college town the various denominations send men above the average ability to Hillsdale. This is one of our advantages over other cities of equal population where there is no college. And it is a pleasant thing to be able to say that all these organizations are harmoniously united in the great work for the moral and spiritual uplift of the world.

From the War Cry of the Salvation Army we quote as follows:

"HILLSDALE, MICH.—On July 16th we had our annual outing in this beautiful little college city. The generous-hearted business and professional men came to the front with their money and automobiles to help make every one happy. All, especially the little ones, enjoyed themselves with bathing and boating on the lake, which is called Sand Lake. We are still on the up-grade here, and have found that the people are whole-hearted, free-hearted and kind-hearted. God bless them!—Captain and Mrs. Lamont."

Since the foregoing was written the College Church has let contract for interior changes at a cost of \$6,500, all to be completed ready for commencement in June of this quinquennial year.



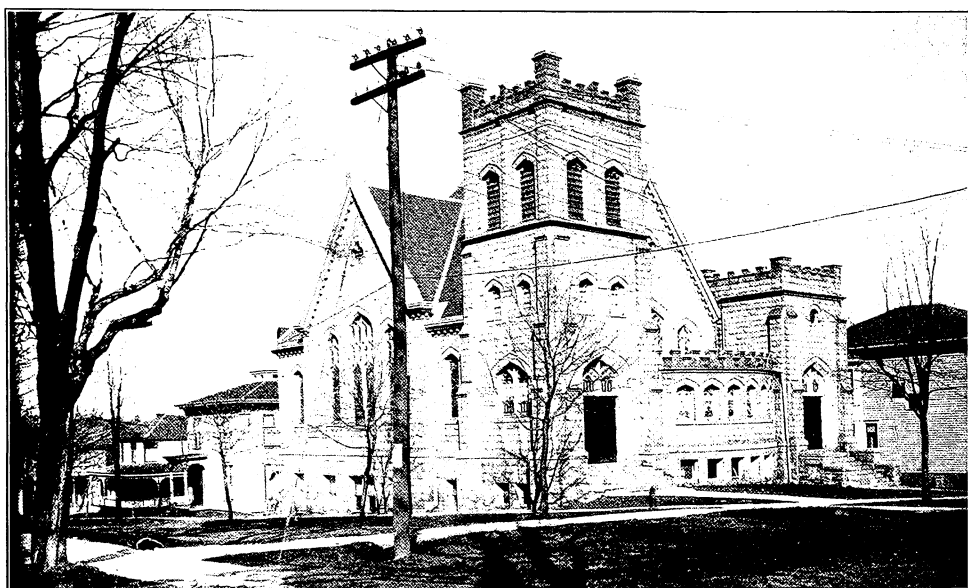
Methodist Episcopal Church
Cor. Manning and North Sts.



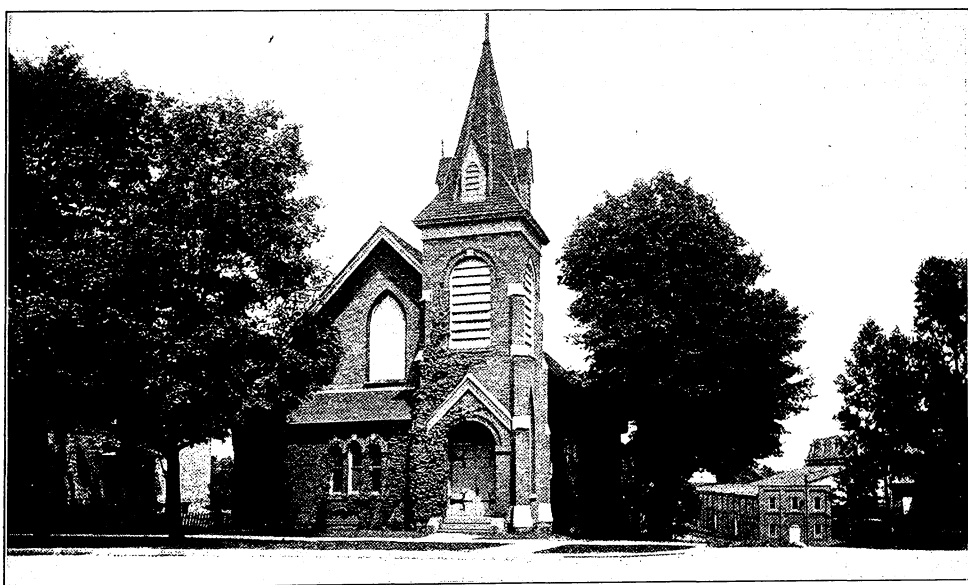
Rally Day of The Salvation Army



Baptist Church, Known as the College Church
Cor. Fayette and Manning Sts.



Presbyterian Church
Cor. Manning and North Sts.



St. Peter's Episcopal Church
East Side Broad Street

Mitchell Library

Hon. Charles T. Mitchell was a pioneer resident who reared his family and made his fortune in Hillsdale. By his will he gave to this city his fine brick two-story and mansard roof dwelling house at corner of Manning and McCollum streets for a library building, and also gave \$10,000 for the purchase of books. When the will became operative the executor turned the property over to the Mayor and Aldermen in connection with a very large public reception. Following the changes needful to fit the building for library purposes came the formal dedication. These were pleasant occasions in the city's history and all the residents of that period gratefully remember them. Besides the alcoves and cases for books there is a fine lecture room and a reading room. From the beginning Miss Mary Pratt has been the librarian and Miss Nellie Rowley assistant librarian, and through their care and skill and their advisory aids this enterprise has been very prosperous and popular. The library now consists of 13,000 volumes of books and many magazines and other periodicals. This is really a new, well selected, up-to-date library. And with the large college library on the north and the Mitchell library on the south, Hillsdale could not ask for anything better.



Cold Spring Resort

People have talked about "Cold Spring Woods" from the first settlement of Hillsdale. This was because of a large boiling spring at the base of an elevation westerly from the center of the city and a little more than five blocks distant. The land about and beyond this spring is naturally suggestive of a park. The ownership changed from time to time until it came into possession of Mr. Louie A. Jones and wife. Through the industry and enterprise of Mr. Jones, marked improvements began to be made. Among the first was the construction of artificial ponds and the stocking of them with fish. To date there are two such ponds well filled with rainbow trout. These are daily fed until the value is many hundreds of dollars. It is truly a sight to see the fish come to be fed. The soil in all that locality is very fertile and Mr. Jones has been wonderfully successful in raising all sorts of fruits and vegetables. Having constructed a concrete reservoir back on an eminence and supplying the same by hydraulic ram, Mr. Jones forces water through a sprinkling system of underground pipes and thus avoids the drouths. Part of this park territory has been platted and several dwelling houses have been built. This whole area is vantage ground for its outlook over the city and makes a very desirable place for residence. People from near and far make it in their way to visit these grounds and trout ponds. See cold springs and surroundings first opportunity.



Louie A. Jones' Cold Spring and Trout Pond

Rothfuss Park

It is with more than common pleasure that we include this religious enterprise in our booklet. After long searching and various experiments the United Brethren Church located a wooded tract consisting of thirteen acres at our eastern city limits near Bawbeese Lake and convenient to the railway. For the accommodation of the Association trains stop to receive or deliver passengers. This tract was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William Rothfuss of Blissfield, Mich., and deeded as a gift to the church for camp meetings and other religious assemblage purposes. Already there is a commodious Auditorium built, 48 x 96 feet, having a capacity for seating 1,000 people. It is refreshing to find a spot on earth where the use of intoxicating liquor and tobacco is so prohibited as not to allow same to be sold or given away. This tract is subdivided into lots for cottages and boarding houses and several such buildings



are already built, with ample room for more as further growth may require. After setting forth the various purposes and restrictions, the Association sums up the whole matter by saying: "The noble purposes of the Association are herein revealed, and to know and observe the regulations will add to the harmony and usefulness and keep clear the field to making the Rothfuss Assembly Park an object of worthiness to all who behold it. May it flourish all for the glory of God, the edification of the church, the better equipment of ministers, and the salvation of souls." Hillsdale welcomes this soul-saving station.

Hillsdale Elgin Creamery Company

After a visit to this plant to see its workings and learn the needful facts to enable us to do so, it gives us pleasure to describe it as one of the valued industries of our city. It was started in 1908 and the object was the manufacture of butter from cream gathered in from the surrounding country. This has been so well done that it reached nearly five hundred farmers to whom it has returned more than a half million dollars. The method has been to have the patrons extract the butter-fat, shipping only the cream to the factory, retaining the skimmed milk at home to feed the calves and the swine and thus guarantee beef and pork later on. This plant has grown till the daily make of butter averages more than 1,500 pounds, making the annual output more than 300,000 pounds. The quality of the butter ranks very high and finds a ready market in Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland, Philadelphia and New York City. With a capital of \$10,000, and with buildings and grounds, and machinery, including a superior refrigerator, this enterprise has been so well conducted that it has passed the experimental period and become a regular dividend payer.

For all this there is a reason. The board of directors, consisting of Messrs. L. A. Goodrich, F. A. Rochlisberger, E. A. Dibble, F. M. Stewart and J. B. Haynes are men of more than common business ability. Thus it will be seen that the secret of this success is the fact of its intelligent management. Hon. L. A. Goodrich, a graduate of our college and who later took a Professional Course in our State University, and is a chemist of wide reputation, has been its President from the beginning. In his life-work Mr. Goodrich for thirty-three years has been a leading druggist, and has served our city as Mayor for ten terms. Thus this mere side issue of the creamery has had the benefit of his knowledge as a chemist to obtain results from the best conditions. Added to this, Mr. F. M. Smith, who took a special dairy course at the Michigan Agricultural College and is Secretary and Manager of the creamery, has had the practical charge of this business for ten years. Such skill and management has not only paid the stockholders for their investment, but has done more for the farmers than could otherwise have been done. In a closing word, this thriving industry has had the benefit of instruction coming from both the State University and the State Agricultural College.

LATER.—The above was written in its order, but the Daily of April 8 announces that "Creamery burned last night. Damage about \$5,000. Fairly well insured. All books saved. Routes will be maintained, and the building will be rebuilt and active operations resumed as soon as possible, probably in from two to four weeks. The building is being enlarged, the power and capacity increased, and the whole plant made better than ever."

The Alamo

This Hillsdale manufacturing enterprise was organized in April, 1901. Its object was to make high grade gas and gasoline engines. In 1902 the company started a factory on a site of ample grounds situate on the north side of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway, in the southeastern part of the city. On this tract they at once erected a large brick building with slate roof and cement floors. This was 50 x 450 feet, and other buildings have been added from time to time until they are extensive and convenient, including a commodious office. A special railroad track has been constructed for the receipt and shipment of the heavier commodities. This enterprise began with a capital of \$25,000, which has been increased as the growth required until it now stands at \$350,000. The factory is lighted by electric lights and is equipped with all the modern machinery and tools needful for its business. They manufacture the engines used for the propelling of all their own machinery, and it is no small thing to be able to say that, during its brief life of a dozen years, this plant has been a large contributor to the power of the world on both sides of the sea. The size of the engines manufactured ranges from 1-horsepower to 120-horsepower, and they are all fully tested before shipment. From its small beginning this factory has grown until at times it has been unable to fill its demands. From its limited local trade it has widened out until its home field includes the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and to this is added a large foreign field. Like all human enterprises it has its varied experiences. Just now the foreign trade is more or less interrupted by the European war. But its staunch character is so well established that with the ability, energy and

integrity of its management, and the skill and fidelity of its employees, the Alamo is now and will continue to be at the head of all this kind of manufacturing in this country. At times it has in its employ 260 men with a weekly pay roll of \$3,750 and an annual output of \$450,000. The progress of the world demands an increase of power and the Alamo proposes to furnish its share of it. Of this plant it has been well said that: "Wherever they have been used or are well known the products of this factory have an unexcelled reputation and easily hold their elevated place in the commercial world." See illustration of this plant made from picture taken for this book.



The Hillsdale Screen Company

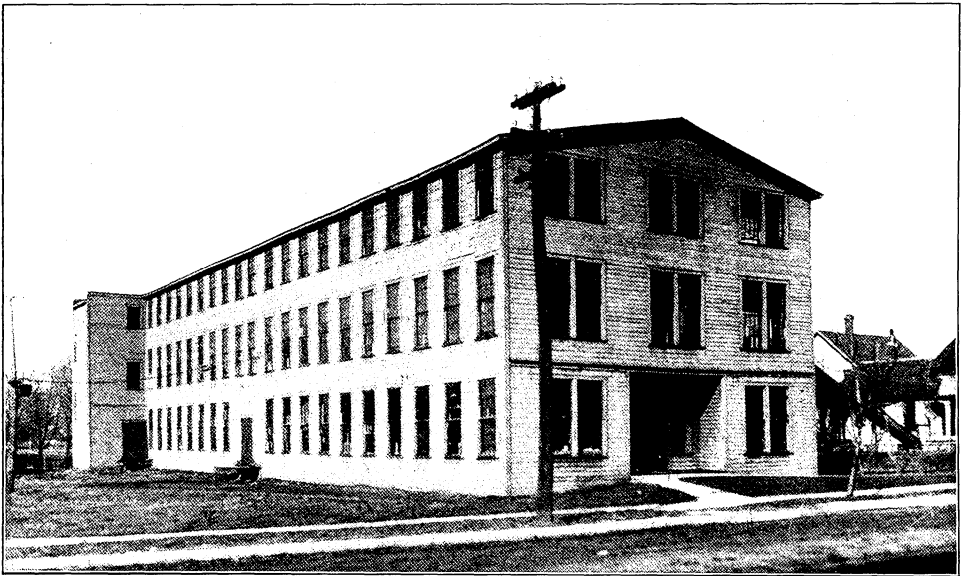
Back fifty years ago there was a screen door factory in the then Village of Hillsdale. The location was a mile down the stream on a mill-race which diverted its water from the St. Joseph river and its machinery was thus driven by water power. From here the plant was moved to its present location on north side of Rail Road Street and run by steam power. Like most human institutions it has had its dire experiences. It had not been in the new location very long till everything, its building, machinery, and stock, was destroyed by fire. But the factory was rebuilt better than before and it is only just to say that the marked growth and success of this great industry is tracable to Hon. Corvis M. Barre. Though not a practical mechanic, his ability and life training fitted him for this work. After a few years at teaching, his enlistment and experience in the Union army, a period of dealing in grain and stock, six years as clerk of Hillsdale county, for a time United States Consul General, many years an Attorney at Law, several terms as Alderman and Mayor, and from its beginning Vice President of our First State Savings Bank—Mr. Barre became President and Manager of the Hillsdale Screen Company. He organized same in 1900, and has devoted himself to this business till the present time. And it is not too much to say that it is through his broad plans and his ability to execute them that a success has been wrought out of which the whole country is proud.

With this bit of history we proceed to tell what this plant now is and what it is doing. Really the first screen doors ever made in the United States and put upon the market were made in Hillsdale, and this is the plant that made them. And the business has grown to such extent that The Hillsdale Screen Co. sells its product at wholesale to retail dealers in ten different States. The thrift of this company can be attributed to the fact that it is not allied with any combine or trust, but manages its own affairs to give the world first quality of goods at reasonable prices. The buildings are of brick, 120 feet by 210 feet, two and three stories high, accommodated by a railroad track in rear the whole length for loading and unloading. Its machinery is driven by an engine of 120-horsepower. Last year this firm made and shipped 13,000 dozen screen doors and 30,000 dozen window screens. It employs eighty-five people and has an annual pay roll of \$25,000. It paid \$70,000 for lumber in a single year and \$40,000 for wire cloth. For greater safety from fire it has recently installed an extensive sprinkler system at a cost of more than \$5,000. This has so reduced the insurance rate that the plant is far better protected and for less money. It can truly be said that this factory is on a firm basis and has a prosperous outlook for the future. See cut on last cover page.

The Shoe Factory

On west side of Manning street, a block north from the railroad passenger depot, is a large frame building 50 feet wide by 150 feet long, three stories high. This is the Shoe Factory and was built about 1900 by local capital purely as an enterprise to assist in building up the city. The business was carried on first by a firm from Ohio, and next by a firm in Chicago. In 1909 Mr. F. H. Welch, from New England, a skilled manufacturer, succeeded to the management of this factory, an arrangement which has continued to date. And it is claimed that this plant is equipped with power and machinery equal to any shoe factory in the State of Michigan.

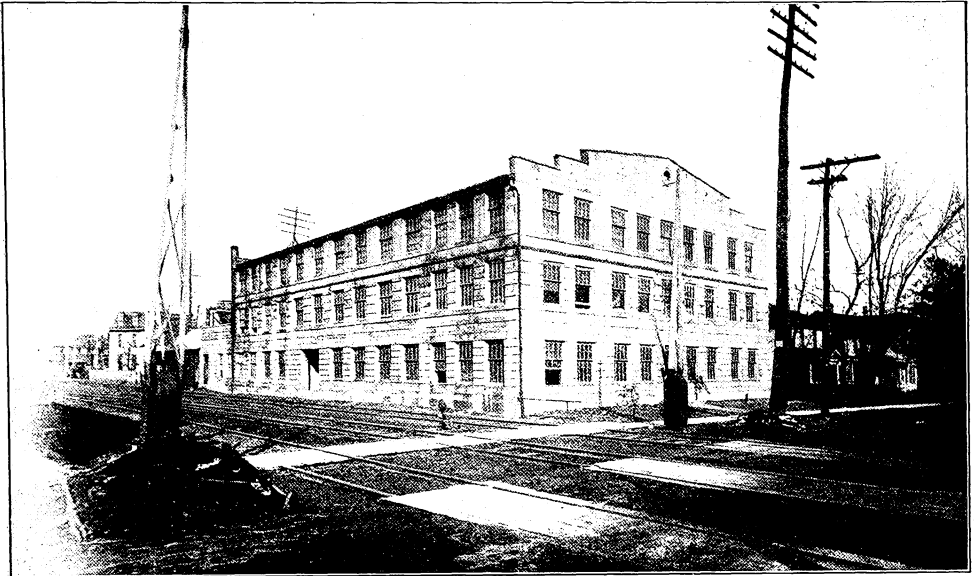
The goods being manufactured at the present time is the widely known, so-called, Elk Skin Outing Shoe, and the management feels that they are making as good goods as any concern in the country. They have some special features which others do not seem to be able to get, features which are important in the wearing of the shoe. This factory is running every day in the year, not having been shut down for five years except for holidays and repairs, and is paying for labor alone, every dollar of which is expended in our home city, \$40,000 or more annually. Truly the Shoe Factory is one of the important industries of the city, and its prosperity and success is directly traceable to its present efficient manager, Mr. Francis H. Welch.



The Worthing & Alger Co.

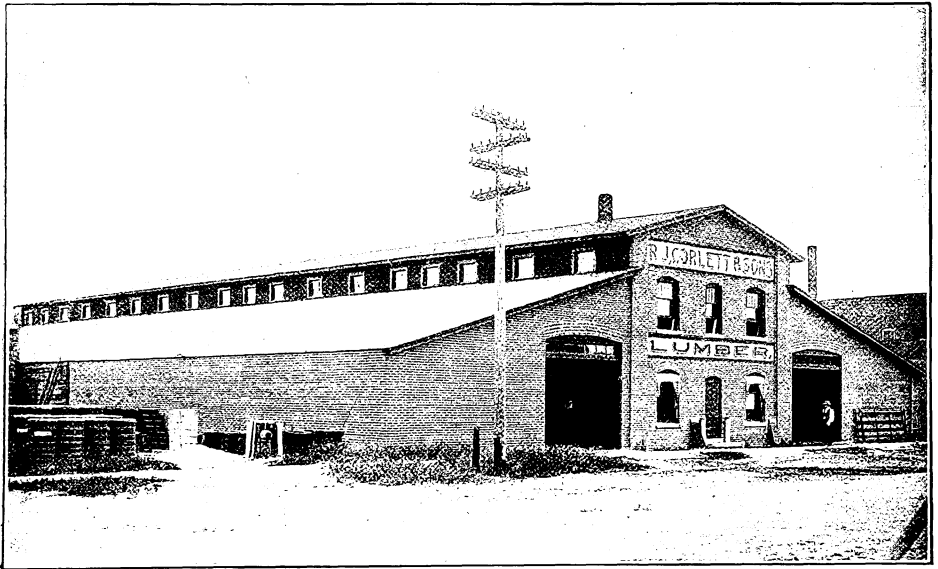
This incorporated manufacturing company owns grounds situate west side of Union street, conveniently located next to and on north side of L. S. & M. S. Railway, and only two blocks from the city's center. Its main building is of Portland cement, three stories high, with cement floors and roof, making it practically fire-proof. The value of the ground and buildings, with power plant, heating plant, and furnishing and tools, is about \$40,000. The chief business of this plant is the dressing of furs and the manufacture of fur and fur lined overcoats, of which it makes over a hundred different styles. Besides tanning and dressing all kinds of materials for its own work, it dresses all kinds of skins for customers, who send them from all parts of the United States. It also does all kinds of remodeling and repair work for both men and women from all parts of the country. This factory is in operation the year round, employing skilled men and women to the measure of a weekly pay roll of from \$500 to \$600, and an annual output of about \$100,000. Having been twenty-four years in business, this is one of the well established enterprises of the city, and one of the first of its kind in the United States. Indeed, this was the first factory to successfully tan and manufacture coats from Galloway cattle hides.

For many years the management of this factory has been in the hands of Mr. H. O. Alger, who knows more of its details and needs than any other man. Like Mr. Barre in the Screen Company, Mr. Dibble in the Wholesale Grocery, Mr. Goodrich in the Creamery, Mr. Welch in the Shoe Factory, etc., etc., so is Mr. Alger in the Tannery the right man at the right time in the right place.



The Worthing & Alger Co.'s Plant

Lumber Yard of Corlett & Sons



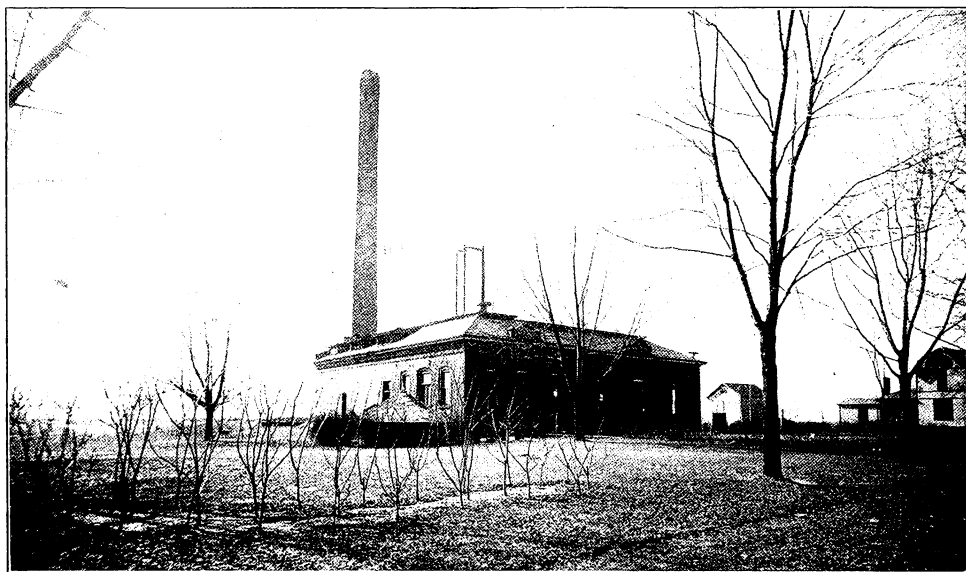
Among the most interesting industries of the City of Hillsdale is the lumber yard of R. J. Corlett & Sons, situate north side of Rail Road street east, backed right up to the rail road track. Robert J. Corlett is one of our earlier residents who served many years as a carpenter and builder. He has reared and educated his family among whom are four sons associated with him in the lumber business. The firm owns lumber yards in the towns of Addison, Centerville, Pittsford, Three Rivers, and Vandalia, but the chief one is in Hillsdale and this has its own history. The firm was doing a thriving business in June, 1913, when they were burned out at a loss of fully \$25,000. With more than common courage, this plant was restored in new and up-to-date style. Aiming at safety from fire, a brick building 101 feet wide by 184 feet long, and costing about \$10,000 was built. Something of

its magnitude can be realized when it is known that in its construction it required 150,000 brick, 400 barrels of cement, 200 barrels of lime, 120,000 feet of lumber, and 800 rolls of fire-proof roofing. For classification and convenience nothing could be better. It has sixty bins or stalls, all of which can be reached from the driveways, and the total capacity is 2,000,000 feet. Altogether for quality and size this plant is justly conceded to be unequaled in ten States.

The Veeder Broom Co.

This enterprise was started in 1873, more than forty years ago, by Charles S. Veeder, who began the manufacture of brooms single-handed and alone. The location was on rear of his dwelling lot at corner of Oak and Vine streets. After three years a factory building was erected and by equipment of modern machinery and employment of men a steady growth has followed until the annual output is nearly ten thousand dozen brooms. This factory is still under the management of Mr. Veeder and the quality of the Veeder brooms is so well known and ranks so high that the demand in the three states of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana is beyond the supply. Without boasting, it can be said that this business is so ably and honorably conducted that it is one of the well established good features of the city. No housewife ever wants anything better than Veeder brooms.

Water Works



We enter upon a description of this great plant not only with a sense of unusual responsibility, but with more than common pleasure. The city owns its own Water Works plant and this is a case of municipal ownership over which everybody has occasion to be happy. Early in our history it was a city of wells and cisterns. To provide for family needs these served their day until the wells everywhere were in danger of becoming polluted. Disease came from the taint of civilization until, together with the need for families and for fire protection, the great question of Water Works was favorably settled. So in 1885 the present system was started. A plat of about two acres of land was purchased on the near shore of Bawbeese Lake and a brick power house was built. The plan was to extend an intake pipe into the lake and lay large mains toward the city to branch out with smaller mains in every direction. This system was inaugurated at a time when Hon. Chauncey F. Cook was mayor, and he was undoubtedly more responsible for giving character to this great plant than any other man. In its early, crude and incomplete condition, some things were criticised, among which was the fact that coal had to be hauled a mile or more by teams. But this has again demonstrated that "the early builders builded better than they knew."

From the founding, thirty years ago, there has been a steady enlargement as the growth of the city required. Two large 16-inch intake pipes have been extended out to the deep, dark center about which we told in our description of the lake. By soundings, aided by thermometer tests, these intakes have been pushed to just the right place and take the

water from a point twenty-five feet below the surface. This not only takes the water from the coolest place for summer use, but obtains the purest of water, which is among the purest that can be obtained anywhere in Michigan, as is shown by an analysis each month by the Board of Health at Lansing. Not only is this water to be valued for its purity, no disease germ having ever been found in it, but for its exceptionally fine quality for household, steam, and laundry purposes. It is so void of lime or other sediment that the housewife calls it "soft" and goes merrily on with her work.

Twenty-five miles of water mains of ample size reach all parts of the city, accommodating about 1,680 dwelling consumers. Because of municipal ownership, water is not measured out sparingly, but generously. In all the homes every family uses all they want for drinking, cooking, bath, toilet and lawn purposes. Because of the steady inflow everybody feels like saying, "Blessed be Water," but after it has served its purpose it must be disposed of. Here comes in the outlet in about fifteen miles of sewers which have cost \$100,000. These sewers are unceasingly, by automatic action, going on day and night, cleansing the city through these underground channels. Besides the dwellings the factories are all amply supplied. This same system, through 107 hydrants, furnishes the city the best of fire protection. For domestic use the regular pressure is fifty pounds, but upon needed occasion this can be raised to 125 pounds. With our adequate fire department more than a dozen streams can be turned upon a single fire whenever required.

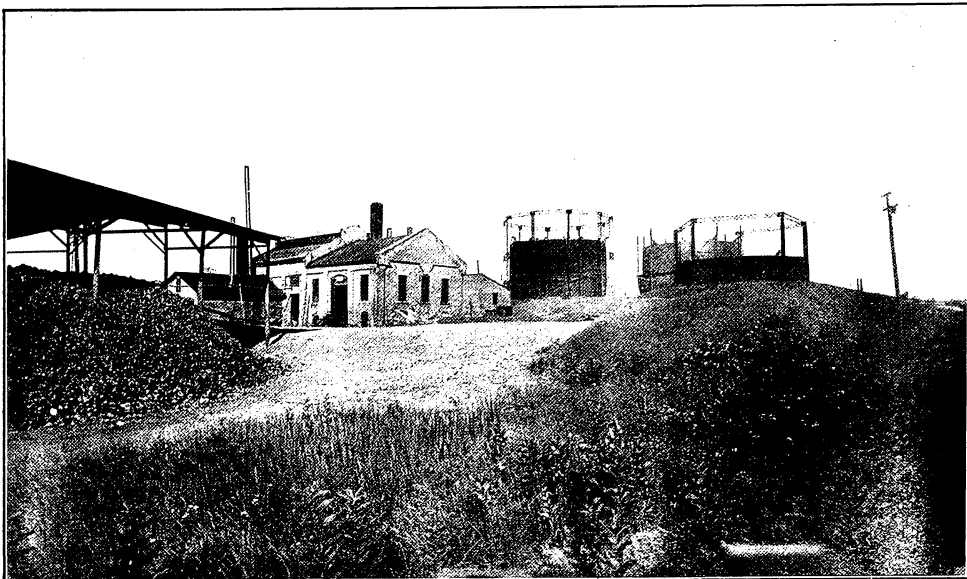
Since the power house was first built it has been enlarged and the grounds have been graded and adorned with lawn and flowers and shrubbery. In summer time this is a beautiful spot to look upon. Also its machinery has been renewed and increased until its equipment is thorough and modern. Its power is sufficient to pump 5,500,000 gallons in a day, and in case of fire, water can be thrown over the tall college building two miles from the plant. The maximum water pumped per day in 1914 was 2,484,000 gallons, and the minimum was 936,000 gallons, the total for the year having been 435,517,255 gallons. The total cost of this plant is estimated at \$280,000. The revenue for 1914 was over \$15,000, and has been productive of a good surplus for many years. It is so good that it is safe to say that the city would not sell it for double the cost. And the finishing touch has come in a spur track from the New York Central system so that cars loaded with coal for the plant can be dumped at the power station. Taken all around, the city of Hillsdale is supplied with as well equipped and up-to-date Water Works as any other city.

Electric Plant

This is the close companion to the Water Works and all that is said concerning the location of the Water Plant applies to the Electric Plant, being located in the same building. The Electric Plant was brought into this relation when it was taken over from Mr. F. W. Stock in 1893. To date the cost of the Electric Plant has been \$200,000, and the machinery is modern and first class. The plant furnishes light to 1,200 consumers, and power to 100 consumers. The boiler capacity is 300 horsepower in water tube and 200 horsepower in return tubular. Besides all the public buildings the business and dwelling regions are amply equipped so that when the city says, "Let there be light," there is light. In the chief business streets there are arches and ornamental posts altogether lighting every nook and corner of the city. And besides the abundant provision for the city there are out running lines—one around to Ash-Tee-Wette, one to the County farm, and one three miles north to farmers. The annual earnings are about \$30,000 and is productive of a handsome profit, another demonstration of the wisdom of municipal ownership. Like the Water Works, this plant is so valuable that the city would not part with it for double the cost. Hillsdale has traveled the road from the tallow dip to the electric light, until it now owns a plan so complete that it is lighted equal to any other city. Hillsdale believes in light and works out its belief.

The Hillsdale Gas Light Company

This Company was organized in 1907 to succeed The Hillsdale City Gas Company. Since its acquisition the plant has been materially improved and the business has been more than doubled. The system is amply prepared to take care of the increase for years to come. The company has about 16½ miles of mains, serving the entire city, and is equipped with three large reservoirs, having a united capacity of 100,000 cubic feet. The daily consumption of gas is 70,000 cubic feet. The gas is of very high quality, and the price of same is lower than any other cities similar to Hillsdale. The people now realize the exceptional advantages of gas. Almost all kitchens are equipped with gas ranges and appliances, and the gas heater and grate have become an economical necessity during the spring and fall. The people may well be proud of the gas system and service that is second to none in a city of its size. The company's sales rooms are equipped with the most modern appliances for the convenience of its patrons. This plant is located north side of Rail Road street west, and its business office is at No. 41 East Side Broad street, near Court House Square.



The Hillsdale Gas Light Co. Plant

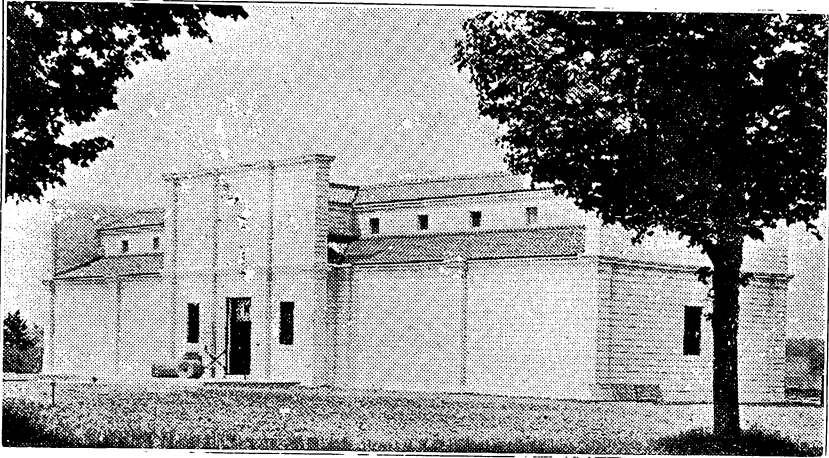
Condensery, and Ice Delivery Co.

We have two other valuable features, the proprietors of which are non-resident, and we have not succeeded in getting sufficient facts to enable us to properly describe them. But our city knows them well enough to regard them as being among the larger and most promising of its industrial interests. They are new, one being the Condensery, with headquarters at Cleveland, Ohio, and the other the Ice Delivery Co., of Sandusky, Ohio. The Condensery is located in the west part of the city and has a fine, large, new and well equipped brick building, and the company is evidently doing a thriving business. It gathers milk from a large area of farming country and ships its products from its own platform into cars on a spur track of the N. Y. C. system. A visit to the plant impresses one that this enterprise has come to stay. The Ice Delivery Co. is located a mile east on Bawbeese Lake and it, too, evidently does a large and prosperous business. It is well provided with spur tracks for convenient shipment and has large ice houses of the capacity of 35,000 tons, and ships large quantities of ice to other cities. They well know that they can put no better ice on the market than Bawbeese Lake ice. It hires hundreds of men during the ice season and pays many thousands of dollars to its employees. The company recently built a large hotel at a cost of many thousands of dollars for the accommodation and comfort of its men.

Oak Grove Cemetery

While this is not a pleasant subject to contemplate we feel that our book would be incomplete without due recognition of it. So we speak first of the fact that in the early sixties the citizens of Hillsdale wisely located its chief cemetery about a mile down the St. Joseph river valley by the purchase of twenty acres of land. This is now owned by the duly incorporated Oak Grove Cemetery. Additions have been made until the grounds include about sixty acres. The original purchase was regularly laid out into lots of different sizes with suitable avenues and alleys. Later came a wide departure from the former style by curved avenues and irregular formed lots with artistic patches of shrubbery. All this latter work has been done under the direction of an expert cemetery artist so that the foundation has been laid for a modern beautiful cemetery. By a system of assessment and endowment a fund is provided to care for the entire grounds and because our Water Works system is extended to all parts of the Cemetery the whole is kept in a highly presentable condition. Because of just the right kind of soil and its rolling surface to give natural drainage, together with its care, it can safely be said that Oak Grove Cemetery takes rank with the best in all the land.

The Hillsdale Mausoleum



Concerning the Mausoleum, Mr. C. E. Singer, secretary of the Association, under a heading, "The Age of Progress," advocates another style of burial. As our best method of treating this matter we quote Mr. Singer where he says: "Notwithstanding the great improvements of this progressive age along other lines, but little advance has been made in providing for the care and burial of our dead. Owing to the great cost of private mausoleums only people of wealth can afford these beautiful resting places. There exists today a strong sentiment for a 'better way' to care for our departed dead. This has been accomplished in Hillsdale through the building of a large, permanent and attractive 'mausoleum' which eliminates all objectionable features pertaining to underground burial. It furnishes a perfectly air-tight and sanitary resting place for the dead at such small cost that those in moderate circumstances may avail themselves of compartments in this beautiful and attractive building." This Mausoleum is certainly a commanding structure closely located to Oak Grove Cemetery and with beautiful surroundings. So it will be seen that Hillsdale is right up-to-date with every facility even to the burying the dead.

Finally

Having portrayed the general and particular features of our city, we now call attention to a few things yet to come. One great need is for interurban railway lines, a matter of present serious consideration to such extent that it is believed that it is only a question of time when such roads will be built. Another thing is an Opera House, and the demand, together with the fact that there are several good central locations, is such that in due time we believe that our hope will be realized. Of all things, and first and foremost, is the great need of a Hospital, and to this end the people have begun the agitation which will, it is to be hoped, materialize in the near future. To sum up the whole matter, with all the long list of good things we already have and the things which are sure to follow, clear minded people will discover that for every reason Hillsdale is desirable for residence. Of a truth when this little city shall come to be known as it really is the effect will be to make present inhabitants more contented, and draw people from outside to come and cast their lot in with us. Believe that there is no individual or corporation behind this to push a real estate boom, but only that it grows out of the desire of the writer for the prosperity and highest good of all the people.

Hillsdale being about 615 feet higher than Lake Erie and about 520 feet higher than Lake Michigan, a survey shows the geographic fact that it is down hill in all directions for hundreds of miles. Thus, all things being taken into account, it can be seen that, not only for its altitude, but for its high character, Hillsdale is THE city which, being set on a hill, cannot be hid!

City of Hillsdale

Oh beautiful City, fairest Queen of the west,
Of all places I've lived in, I like you the best;
Your streets are so clean, and your homes are so fine,
I would like to live in you the rest of my time.

Of your early history so much has been told,
It seems like repeating a thing that is old;
But as a matter of fact, whether many or few,
Your early builders builded better than they knew.

The location selected was so very fine,
It remains a thing of beauty and will for all time;
Just rolling enough to not appear stale,
They staked out your boundaries and called you **HILLSDALE!**

They made ample provision for Churches and Schools,
For 'twas never their purpose to live among fools;
Of preachers and teachers they wanted the best,
That could be found in the east or found in the west.

We care not a farthing as to where they were born,
We've examined no records as to where they came from;
"By their fruits shall ye know them" is the record of old,
And we are gathering their harvest an hundred fold.

For nearly everything else they provided a home,
From their Banks down town to the College with its dome;
But, one thing they left for their children to do—
Build a Home for their City; so we'll build it for you.

We're building for the ages as we're well aware,
Both foundation and structure must be laid with great care,
A Staff for "Old Glory" must be placed on its dome,
And righteousness which exalteth a city abide in your home.

—J. L. REYNOLDS.

It gives us great pleasure to speak of the skill and generous service of Mr. A. E. Crawford in the furnishing of photographs for the cuts in this book. He has taken great pains to go to all the localities at the right time so that we are able to present a very rare collection of pictures. And the laws of light always tell the truth.

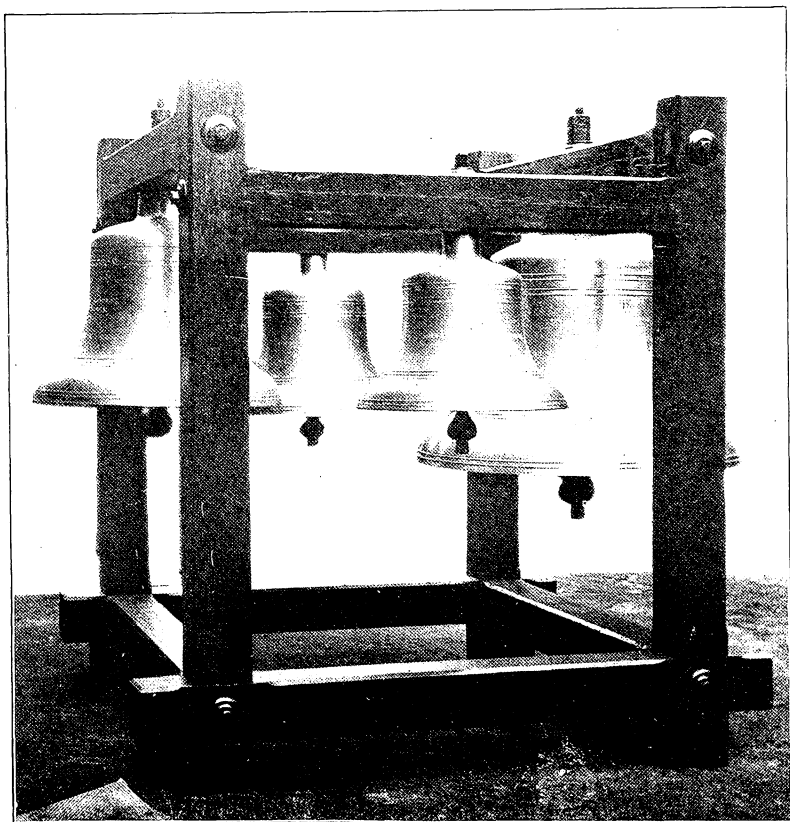
It also gives us pleasure to speak of the Etheridge Printing Co. of Grand Rapids, Mich., that prints this book. The quality speaks for itself and everything has been agreeable and satisfactory. We recommend to all who want high class printing done, promptly, and at a fair price, to call on these people.

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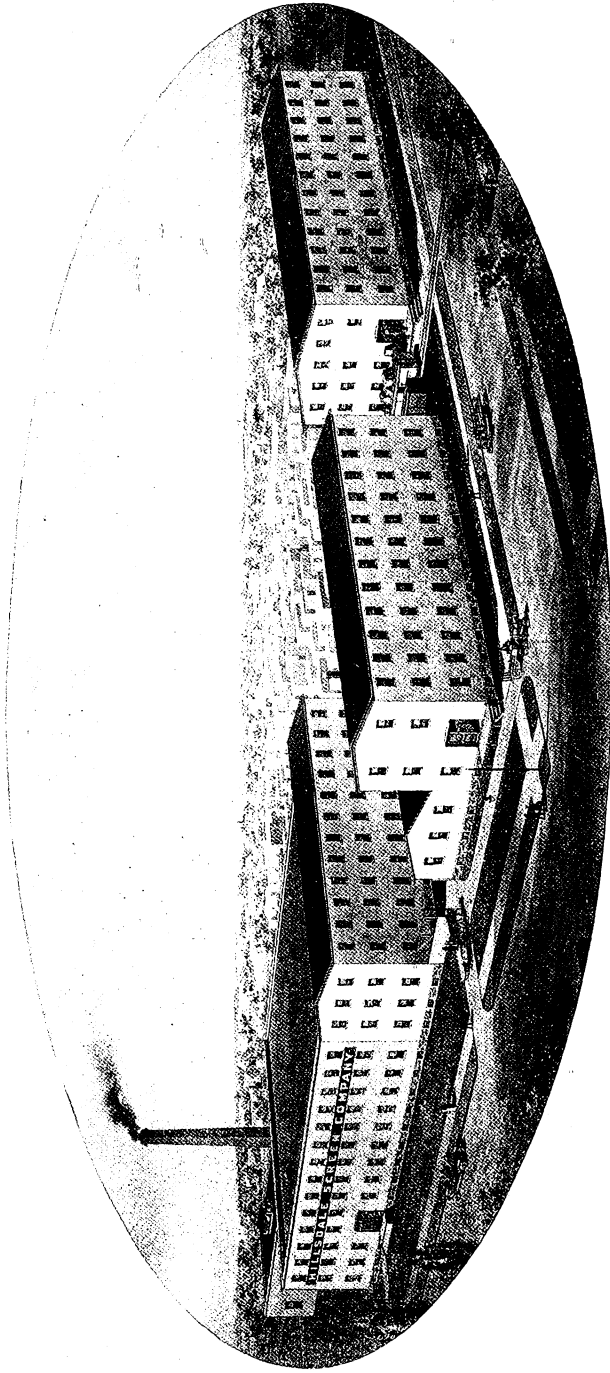


RESIDENCE OF JOHN B. WHITNEY — Built by L. P. Reynolds



By Courtesy of Meneely Bell Co., Troy, N. Y.

OUR BELLS



THE HILLSDALE SCREEN CO.

